
The Montessorian

April 19, 2013

Nurturing the hearts, minds and spirit of children and adults for 33 years!

Calendar

- Apr. 22 Snack Week for Elijah Kelly, Alex Kidangathazhe & Koen Anderson
- Apr. 22- 26 Staff Appreciation Week
- Apr. 24 Upper Level Second Year Students
to Johnson Art Museum 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- Apr. 24 Melani and Becky's Class Field Trip
to Cornell Plantations 12:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- Apr. 25 Coffee Shop 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in Mini-Gym
- Apr. 26 Scott and Deb's Class Field Trip
to Museum of the Earth 12:00 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.
- Apr. 27 "Freedom within Limits: A Discussion and Workshop with
Primary Teacher Donyan Shadions", 1p.m. – 3 p.m., RSVP
- Apr. 29 No Dryden or Lansing Buses
- Apr. 29 Art Show 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
- May 1 Play Announcement
- May 2 **2013 Spring Concert**
Featuring: Beginning Band, Junior Band, Big Band,
Chamber Players, Concert Band, and Percussion Ensemble.
Hangar Theatre, Ithaca 7:00 p.m.
- May 3 Dawn & Katri's Class Field Trip
to Cornell Plantations 12:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- May 6 – 10 Disabilities Awareness Week
- May 6 - 10 Upper Level Test Preparation Days
- May 7 – 10 Junior Level Test Preparation Days
- May 8 Play Auditions
- May 8 No Afternoon Dryden Bus
- May 8 Board Meeting 4:15 p.m.
- May 9 No Lansing Bus
- May 10 Elizabeth Ann Clune Day

News from Dawn and Katri's Class

Spring always brings a surge of excitement. Energy abounds in our classroom. This energy and excitement is seen while the children are researching life found during the Paleozoic Eon or in research of animals presently on Earth. It is seen as children exercise their mathematical minds while doing calculations with large numbers or fractions on materials and in their heads. It is seen as they paint pictures and write words to bring the stories inside them alive. It is seen as we observe plants and their parts while discovering the functions of these parts. And it is seen in the enthusiasm shown while spending time together discussing whatever might be important in that moment.

The children's enthusiasm and insight was evident during a recent class discussion about a very important tool we use each day: the peace tray. The children carefully described its purpose: It is a tool used to create peace. They were invited to share things that they liked about it: The process prevents problems from getting worse; it helps people speak in turn and solve problems in the moment; it brings peace and happiness; the candle brings peace and importance to the moment; the peace tray helps us speak and listen respectfully; it helps us use our hearts. Next they were asked if there were things that they found frustrating about the peace process. They mentioned: It is hard to wait one's turn to speak; it sometimes takes a long time to resolve a conflict; the process may take you away from other activities; sometimes a conflict has to be revisited over and over and over; sometimes a person is called unnecessarily to be a part of a peace talk. After much discussion, the consensus was clear: This was still a very useful and important tool for creating peace, one that was worth the minor inconveniences. I felt proud to be a part of this conversation with these peacemakers.

We have had some exciting field trips recently. First, we traveled to the Department of Entomology at Cornell to visit with our own Leslie Allee. We were treated to some activities to learn about Leslie's passion: ladybugs. We also had fun on a scavenger hunt, exploring some of the Department's collection of bug specimens, from the tiny ticks to the gigantic bird eating spider! Thank you to Leslie and her daughter, Ella, for hosting us.

This past week we had the opportunity to visit the Johnson Art Museum at Cornell. We spent time really looking at art, discovering mysteries that were hidden in the pictures by the artists. We "traveled" to a Himalayan village in a vibrant painting in the Asian collection. We looked at functional art from South America, and we learned a recipe to create our own Chinese dragons. This exercise complimented our reading of the book, Where the Mountain Meets the Moon in which we have met a Chinese dragon.

One recent adventure was had right here at school in our mini-gym. We were able to view the dress rehearsal of the Middle School's presentation of Shakespeare's The Tempest. We prepared by reading a version of the play and found the magic and drama quite entertaining. The Middle Schoolers did a fabulous job!

And here are some final notes worth mentioning. First, our children are growing! And with this growth, they are hungry! We thank those who have added to our supply of popcorn, tea, and bread supplies. In addition, we encourage you all to be sure your child is bringing a healthy snack or two to be consumed before or after lunchtime. Active brains work better when well fed! Second, with mud season here, please be sure that your child has labeled spare clothing and a range of clothing and shoe choices to meet the needs of our fickle weather.

Happy Spring!

Primary Parent Workshop Series

Freedom within Limits: A Discussion and Workshop with Primary Teacher Donyan Shadions

Do you ever feel stumped about what to say to your child? Do you ever feel exasperated or find yourself in power struggles?

Join Donyan on Saturday, April 27th from 1-3 pm and learn the language of limits. Donyan has been a primary teacher for over 14 years and is a parent of a delightfully strong willed 6 year old. Her gift is clear and effective communication with children. Donyan will present some easy tweaks to your language that will allow you to move through your day with fewer incidents of struggle.

Bring specific examples of moments when you have felt stumped by what to say next!

We need at least 8 families to hold the workshop. Please RSVP!

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Child(ren)'s name(s) & age(s) _____

List of books or programs that you have read or found helpful:

GOT PHOTOS?



We need your photos!

This year's EACMSI 2012-2013 yearbook staff is looking for photos from the EAC community -- If you have photos from 2012-2013 school events, field trips, special classroom projects throughout the school year, please e-mail and let me know -- I will send you a link to upload your photo(s) for possible use in the yearbook!

Send an e-mail to: vmclafferty@palisade.com with "YEARBOOK" in the subject line – thank you!



Beethoven

Ryan's Concert Choice of the Week

Sunday, 4/28
4 p.m. Ford Hall
Ithaca College

Chamber Orchestra and Chorus: Beethoven Symphony No. 9

Jeffery Meyer, conductor
Alexandra Loutsion '06, soprano
Dawn Pierce '92, mezzo-soprano
Dominick Rodriguez '99, tenor
Marc Webster '02, bass-baritone
Ithaca College Chorus, Janet Galvan, director

SALUDOS de Dona Cheri.....GREETINGS from Spanish classes and Cheryl**COSTA RICA**

“Pura Vida!” This is an expression unique to the “Ticos” (Costa Ricans) loosely translated as meaning “life is good, and you?” Right now Jim Hodges and I are the chaperones guiding ten Middle School students on a journey into Latin America. For most, it is the first experience in a native setting where Spanish is spoken. Costa Rica is a unique country known for its ambitious protection of the environment and its resources. The country has a goal to be carbon neutral by 2021. It is known to have the highest percentage of protected land in the world. It is about the size of West Virginia with over 4 million inhabitants and there is no army!

Several years ago, Liz Allen and her family came to the language school where our trip starts out. This is the fourth year our Middle School has come here. The school, “Conversa”, started back in the 70’s by American David Kaufman who studied at Ithaca College. It is a language school that hosts day students as well as students on campus. We are staying at the largest “casa” (house) where each student rooms with at least one other classmate and shares a bathroom. Each day “la escuela” (the school) provides us with “cuatro comidas” (4 meals). “Que delicioso!” The “fruta” is super fresh and the school even has its own hydroponic “jardin” (garden). “Las clases” are taught from 8:30-1:10 each day and each “maestro” (teacher) has no more than four “estudiantes” (students). The entire class is taught in Spanish: “NO INGLES!” In the afternoons, our group engages in various activities on and off campus. Classes on campus include ceramics, Latin dance and cooking, as well as two lectures on Spanish language and Costa Rican culture and history. Our off-campus excursions included sightseeing in the nearby small town of Santa Ana and the capital city of San Jose. Transportation is provided by Conversa.

Conversa’s campus is beautifully groomed by their gardeners and maintenance crew. Scattered about campus are practice areas for conversation such as a doctor’s clinic, a travel agency, a grocery store, a bank and a restaurant. There is a swimming pool and a game room with ping pong and foosball. During their down time, students enjoy these opportunities, as well as a group of hammocks outside the administrative offices.

Our Middle School students are “encendidos” (on fire) with the language! They are learning quickly and the four hours of solid instruction is totally worth it. Of course I keep them practicing throughout the day even out of classes. Two of the afternoons we perform community service field trips. We recently worked hard digging and raking at a local conservation center and another day we played and interacted in Spanish with preschool children. After five full days of language classes and on-campus experience here at Conversa, we will take a white water raft trip on the “Rio” (river) Pacuare, one of the top rafting rivers of the world! The “guias” (guides) are experienced and knowledgeable and it is a fabulous experience.

So, from Costa Rica we thank those of you who have purchased our delectable pastries, baked goods and coffee at our coffee shops throughout the year! This helped defray the costs of this magnificent experience which is a life changer for our students. “Pura Vida!”

The EAC Musical

It is our practice at EAC to continuously examine and refine our curricula. As our numbers have grown, we have been looking at additional ways for children to participate meaningfully in our musical theater experience. Our original model was created when the school had only a handful of elementary students. Now with 120 students, it is practically impossible to find an appropriate production for so many students to perform. As a result, this year we are going to change the format of the EAC Musical. We will offer the opportunity to audition for the cast of the Musical to Upper Level and 2nd and 3rd year Junior Level students only. First year Junior Level students will get to participate in "Playmania" with their Junior and Upper Level peers.

We have created "Playmania" as a great way to develop connection to the play and each other through being in mini-courses together. These "playminis" will relate to the chosen musical, thus intensifying students' knowledge of historical events, traditions, games, the lives of the characters, even the food they might have eaten. This year our first week of mini-courses will provide ways to get everyone (children and staff) involved in topics related to this year's play. In the afternoons, our First year Junior Level students will participate in games and activities while the older students are rehearsing, working as stage crew or playing a role in a multi-media production team.

Then with the play in full fever pitch, the second week of mini-courses will offer the traditional year-end "Switching Gears", full of sports, food, music, games and art; maybe even some Science, Latin or Math!

We are excited to announce the play on Wednesday, May 1. Auditions will take place on the following Wednesday, May 8.

Attention All Talented & Creative Parents

WE NEED YOU!!

At the beginning of June, standard Montessori curriculum comes to an end and we begin two weeks of exciting mini-courses in the mornings and play rehearsals and other activities in the afternoons. It is a wonderful way to bring our year to a close.

This year, Junior and Upper Level students will spend the first mini-course week, starting June 3rd, engaged in "Playmania". Mornings will involve play related mini-courses led by EAC teachers and staff. Afternoons will have play rehearsal, production activities, or games and other seasonal programming.

The week of June 10th, Extended Day, Junior Level and Upper Level students will participate in non-play related mini-courses. **We would like to extend an invitation to all parents (and friends) to join us by offering to teach or co-teach a mini-course this year.** Many offerings will give our students the opportunity for small group classes. Some past courses have included Massage, Rocket Making, French Cooking, Robotics, Still Life Oil Painting – the sky is the limit! Be creative!

This year parent-led mini-courses will be offered only the week of June 10th.

Courses are offered Monday through Friday from 9:30 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. and again from 10:45 a.m. – 11:55 a.m. Extended Day students will participate during the 1st session, 9:30 – 10:40 a. m., only. If you would like more information about offering a course, please call the office, or complete the attached descriptions of the mini-course(s) you would like to offer. Please submit these descriptions to the office by Friday, May 3rd. Please include which time slot(s) you would prefer!

MINI COURSE DESCRIPTION FORM

Teacher _____ June 10th - 14th

Assistant _____

Time: Session I 9:30 - 10:40 Enrollment Maximum _____ Ages _____
Session II 10:45 - 11:55

If your course requires transporting students off campus, you must arrange for that prior to your commitment to teach.

Description: _____

Please fill out and turn in to the office by Friday, **May 3rd**.

Melani and Becky's Class Field Trip to Cornell Plantations



**Wednesday, April 24
12 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

We are going on a field trip to the Cornell Plantations. Students should dress for the weather.

We are using the school vans, but parents are welcome to join us.

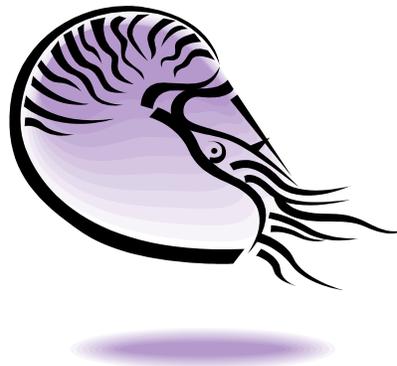
Scott & Deb's Class Trip to the Museum of the Earth

We will go on a field trip to the Museum of the Earth on

Friday, April 26th.

We will leave at 12:00 p.m. and return by 2:30 p.m.

We will eat lunch at school.



**We will be using the school van,
but parents are invited to drive or chaperone.**

Please call the office 277-7335 if you can come.

**If your child uses a car seat or booster seat,
please be sure to leave it that morning.**

Thank you!

The Spring Art Show is almost here!

Monday, April 29th

Your help needed!

The annual EACMSI Spring Art Show is a festive and popular event that provides a wonderful opportunity to gather with new and old friends while viewing amazing artwork.

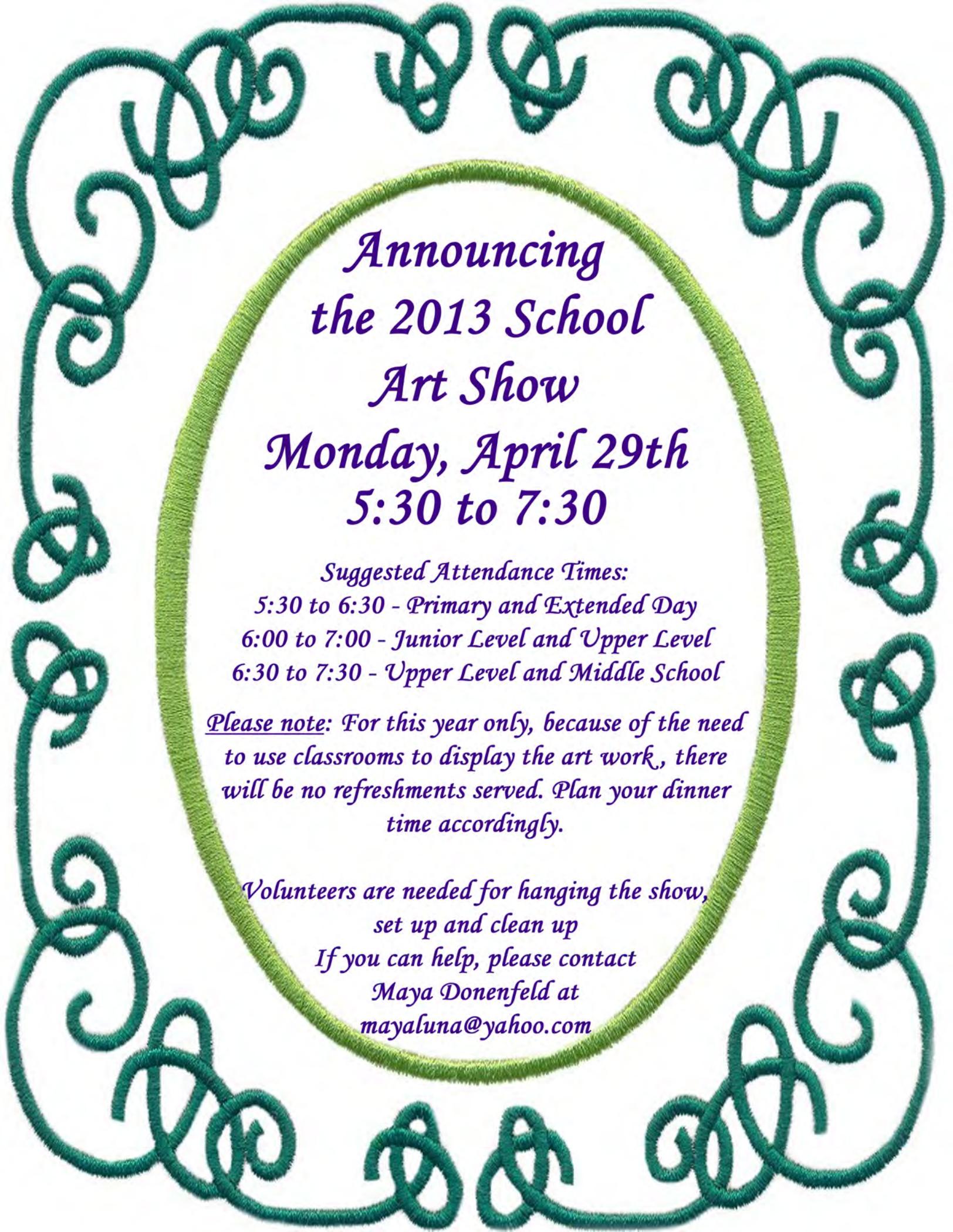
What a wonderful way for our children to share their artistic accomplishments with the entire EACMSI community! Marjorie and Jeff, our dedicated art teachers, put forth tremendous energy to offer this show each year. It is too big an endeavor to do on their own, and they count on the support of parent volunteers.

How can you help?

"Hang the Show" volunteers are needed to set up and take down the show. Our installation times are: Saturday, April 27th 1-5 p.m., Sunday, April 28th 10 a.m.-4 p.m., and Monday, April 29th from early afternoon to 5 p.m. This is a fantastic way to give to our school and have some fun. Spend a few hours under the direction of the Art Staff hanging and displaying art with a bonus of sneak peeks and an opportunity to spend time with other parents. No special skills are needed, just your willingness to lend a hand. We will also need parents to help take down the show on Monday evening. If you are able to contribute even a few hours during one of those times please contact: Maya Donenfeld at mayaluna@yahoo.com or 220-3925.

THANK YOU we can't do this without you!





*Announcing
the 2013 School
Art Show*

*Monday, April 29th
5:30 to 7:30*

Suggested Attendance Times:

5:30 to 6:30 - Primary and Extended Day

6:00 to 7:00 - Junior Level and Upper Level

6:30 to 7:30 - Upper Level and Middle School

Please note: For this year only, because of the need to use classrooms to display the art work, there will be no refreshments served. Plan your dinner time accordingly.

*Volunteers are needed for hanging the show,
set up and clean up*

If you can help, please contact

Maya Donenfeld at

mayaluna@yahoo.com

Dawn & Katri's Class Field Trip to Cornell Plantations



**Friday, May 3
12 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.**

We are going on a field trip to the Cornell Plantations. Students should dress for the weather.

We are using the school vans, but parents are welcome to join us.

Dear Upper Level Families,

The big trip to Boston is coming up!

Our school nurses need you to fill out and return the attached ICSD Field Trip Medical Information Form as soon as possible, **whether or not** your child takes medications.

If your child does take any medications, you will also need to submit a physician's order (also attached).

These forms can be mailed (120 E. King Rd. Ithaca, NY 14850), scanned and emailed (kseaman@icsd.k12.ny.us) or faxed at 607-277-0251.

Please submit these forms by **WEDNESDAY, MAY 1** so that we can follow up appropriately.

All medications must be in original containers and given to the nurses or Terry before the trip. If we have medications at school already we will send these with one of the Upper Level teachers.

Please feel free to call us with any questions or concerns.

Thanks so much for your help!

Kelly Seaman & Nancy Kaproth, your school nurses

ITHACA CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT
FIELD TRIP MEDICAL INFORMATION

IMPORTANT - THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED AND COMPLETED FOR ALL FIELD TRIPS OUT-OF-TOWN AND/OR OVERNIGHT.

Student Name: _____ Birth Date: ____/____/____

School _____ Grade _____ Male _____ Female _____

Home Address _____ Home Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Work Phone # _____

Parent/Guardian Name _____ Work Phone # _____

Lives with: _____ Phone # _____

Sponsoring Teacher _____ Date(s) of Trip _____

Names of two friends, relatives or neighbors that can be contacted if parents are not available during an emergency.

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

Name _____ Home Phone _____ Work Phone _____

1) As the child's parent/guardian, I attest that the only major illness, injury, surgery or allergy including chronic conditions sustained by my child are as follows:

2) I will inform the medical office **in writing** of any changes or concerns in my child's health status prior to the trip.

NO MEDICATION, INCLUDING ALL OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDICATIONS MAY BE GIVEN TO YOUR CHILD ON A FIELD TRIP WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION OF THE PARENT/GUARDIAN AND A PHYSICIAN'S SIGNED MEDICATION ORDER.

If your child has a current medical order on file in the Medical Office, this will be attached to the field trip form. Any new medicine will require a written and signed order from a doctor and a signed permission form from a parent or guardian. You must indicate if the student can self medicate. Medication order forms are available in the Medical Office. Medication must be in the original container or prescription bottle and brought to the Medical Office by an adult.

3) Medications my child will need to take on this trip are as follows:

- Medicine _____ dose _____ frequency _____
- Medicine _____ dose _____ frequency _____

Medication order complete and on file in the Medical Office: Yes _____ No _____

If emergency treatment is necessary, your child will be transported by the staff or ambulance to the nearest hospital. Parents will be contacted as soon as possible in case of sickness or accident.

I give permission for the attending physician to give emergency treatment to my child.

parent/guardian signature _____ date _____

Reviewed and approved for travel by the school nurse _____ (Signature) 5/2002

PHYSICIAN'S ORDER FOR GIVING MEDICATION IN SCHOOL

Physician and parents of children requiring medication in school: You are requested to complete this form so that required medication may be administered in compliance with the rules and regulations of the NYS Education Department.

Name of School _____

Child's Name _____

Diagnosis _____

Name of Drug _____

Dosage & Times To Be Given _____

Expected Effect _____

Possible Side Effects _____

Time Duration of Order: Months _____ Weeks _____ Days _____

Date Order Is Effective _____

PHYSICIAN'S SIGNATURE AND ADDRESS

Parent Request To School: I hereby request that my child, _____ be given the medication above as prescribed by the physician.

DATE

PARENT'S SIGNATURE

SELF-MEDICATION RELEASE FORM FOR STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12 ONLY

Date _____

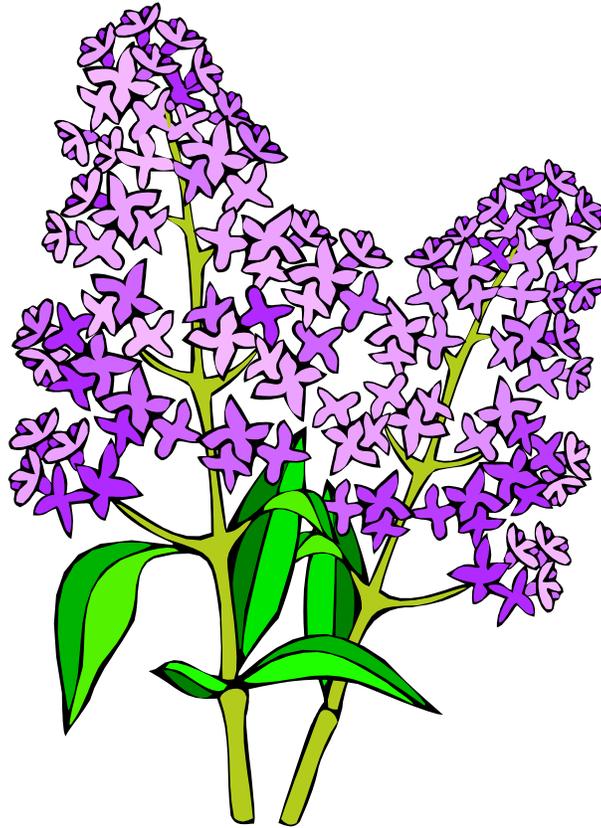
Child's Name: _____ has been instructed in the proper use of the following medication procedures:

Physician signature _____

Parent/Guardian signature _____

We request that (child's name) _____ be permitted to carry the medication on his/her person or to keep same in his/her locker or PE locker, as we consider him/her responsible. He/She has been instructed in and understands the purpose and appropriate method and frequency of use.

Scott and Deb's Class Field Trip to Cornell Plantations



Wednesday, May 22
12 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

We are going on a field trip to the Cornell Plantations. Students should dress for the weather.

We are using the school vans, but parents are welcome to join us.



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