
The Montessorian

January 11, 2013

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

Calendar

- Jan. 14 Snack Week for Mazi Abdallah, Nico Botts and Ruby Zawel
- Jan. 15 Extended Day Transition Meeting **has been postponed, date TBA**
- Jan. 16 Upper Level Parent Meeting for Research Project in Annex 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 17 Ski Club
- Jan. 18 Middle School Field Trip to Cornell University Sage Chapel 1:00 – 2:30 p.m.
- Jan. 21 **NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess**
Staff Curriculum Day
- Jan. 22 Middle School Transition Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- Jan. 23 Upper Level Transition Meeting 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 24 Ski Club
- Jan. 29 Junior Level Transition Meeting 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- Jan. 31 Ski Club
- Feb. 6 Board Meeting 4:15 p.m.
- Feb. 7 Ski Club
- Feb. 10 Spring Open House for Prospective Families 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Feb. 14 Coffee Shop in the Mini-Gym 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.
- Feb. 14 Valentine’s Day Skating Party for Junior Level, Upper Level
and Middle School Students
- Feb. 14 Ski Club
- Feb. 18 – 22 **NO SCHOOL – Winter Recess**
- Feb. 26 Upper Level Demonstration Night
Two Sessions as Assigned 6:30- 7:30 p.m. / 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Details to Follow
- Feb. 27 Junior Level Demonstration Night 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
- Feb. 28/Mar.1 **NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Transition Meetings

There are several meetings coming up that you may be interested in attending. These meetings are scheduled for parents whose children will be changing levels at Montessori next year or those parents who are interested in hearing about what they have to look forward to. If you have questions regarding your child's placement for next year please speak with your child's current teacher.

Sarah and Liz will meet with parents interested in learning about **Extended Day** curriculum and expectations. **The meeting has been postponed, and we will announce a new date soon.**

Scott, Deb, Becky, Melani, Dawn and Katri will meet with Extended Day parents or parents who are interested in learning about curriculum and expectations in the **Junior Level** on **Tuesday, January 29th** from 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Terry, Marianne, Stephen and Karen will meet with third year Junior Level parents or parents who are interested in learning about curriculum and expectations in the **Upper Level** on **Wednesday, January 23rd** from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Annex.

Jim and Kate will meet with third year Upper Level parents or parents who are interested in learning about curriculum and expectations in **Middle School** on **Tuesday, January 22nd** from 7:00 p.m. – 8:30p.m. in the Middle School.

Childcare will not be available during these meetings. Please make appropriate arrangements.

Attention all EAC Families!

Next year's registration forms are now available. Stop in the office if you would like to ensure your slot for next year! If you prefer you may download the forms from our webpage <http://eacmsi.org/> under the "Admissions" heading.

Tuition Assistance

The Board of Trustees has established a tuition assistance fund for the 2013 - 2014 year. While the amount is not enormous and is not intended for full scholarship, it is available for any family who needs financial assistance for the next academic year. Application forms are in the office or you may download them from our webpage <http://eacmsi.org/> under the "Admissions" heading. Please return completed forms by February 1st. Thank you!

Upper Level Research Project Meeting

There will be a meeting for parents of Upper Level students (especially parents of new Upper Level students) about the Research Project on **Wednesday, January 16 from 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.** in the Annex. There will be no childcare at this meeting, so please make appropriate arrangements.



Busing Note

All requests for transportation for the 2013 – 2014 school year are due to your school district's Transportation Department by **April 1, 2013**. It is necessary to submit a request each year. Forms are available in our office if you need one. If the district receives the request after April 1st they reserve the right to deny transportation.

After-School Program News and Information

Happy New Year!

Winter has now truly arrived and we continue to enjoy going outside, yet during the dark and cold season you will find us inside by pick up time. We have a regular classroom use schedule, and will also post a sign (with map) on the front door each day letting you know what classroom you can find us in.

Winter Clothes: Since the children are outside for their lunchtime recess, outdoor gear can get cold/wet. Please provide your child with duplicates of as much outdoor gear as possible, and at least a second pair of mittens and socks to change into for their AS recess time. This will allow us to make sure everyone gets the fresh air and activity their bodies appreciate in comfort and safety.

Regular Activities: We have grown into a nice and comfortable rhythm with our AS crew.

Mondays have become our arts and crafts days with Julie Dean leading us in some different artistic adventure each week. Many of you have been the recipients of beautiful clay ornaments or fun colored pasta necklaces that were created in December.

On **Tuesdays** Walt Mann has been adapting his team building and outdoor games experience to create fun activities for our younger age group. If your children have been talking about some new games they've been playing, either outside or in the gym, feel free to ask Walt for the details!

Wednesdays we cook, and have so far rolled up an astonishing amount of vegetarian sushi, fried up more latkes than we could count, rolled, cut, decorated and baked hundreds of cookies, crafted several dozen individual apple pies and maybe even a few other things that are escaping my memory!

Thursdays J.P. Nawn has been pulling together some jam sessions (music, not canning!) with small groups of children. We've got a guitar or two, a bunch of hand percussion instruments, and children are encouraged to bring in instruments from home if spending some time jamming sounds good to them.

On project days children are sometimes reluctant to leave before we wrap up all activities. We aim to complete all of our special activities by 5:15 p.m. so we have time for the children to clean up, gather all of their belongings, and convene in the front hall for a story while parents arrive. If we know a child has to leave early, we try to make sure s/he gets a chance to participate if interested. Feel free to send us an e-mail at AfterSchool@eacmsi.org if you know you have a specific scheduling request, particularly on one of our regularly scheduled "special activity" days.

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After-School Program News and Information

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Special activities:

Face painting: As you may have observed we have added face painting to our list of occasional activities! The children are always delighted by this, and we have several very talented artists in our group who are perfecting their skills. We use paints and/or crayons that are designed for skin and wash off easily with soap and water. If you prefer your child not participate in this activity please let any AS staff member know.

Sledding: When we are fortunate enough to have a wonderful snow base we like to make sure we take our Primary and Extended Day children to the Field of Dreams at least once for a well supervised sledding adventure, followed by some hot chocolate! If you prefer that your child not sled down our sledding hill (moderate, but hilly enough to enjoy) please be sure to let us know. We will try to send out an e-mail in advance letting you know when we plan to venture out, but it can sometimes be hard to predict the alignment of good weather and extra staffing that allows us to undertake this close to home field trip.

After-School Staff updates:

Please join me in welcoming Alex Pfeifer and Leslie Allee back to our AS Staff this year. Alex is with us three days a week, and Leslie has been filling in with us on Fridays. Alex is a regular presence in our Primary classrooms spending time with the children during recess, lunch and rest times. Alex loves to read with the children as well as play games; she enjoys initiating low-key activities to support our mellow indoor time. Leslie is an entomologist who loves spending time outside with the children, and is an adult who is truly delighted when the children bring her every insect they have found for observation!

Pick up reminders

Touch base with us: When you come to pick up your child please make sure you have at least a brief conversation with a member of the AS staff. We are happy to sign out your child in the attendance book if your hands are full or you are in a hurry. We do need to have face-to-face contact to confirm that you are taking your child. We may also need the opportunity to pass information on to you about your child's day.

Timing: Please remember that our AS program ends at 5:30 p.m. If you are running late please call the AS phone 607-279-5406 and let us know. For many of our children, pick up from AS is the last transition at the end of a very long day. We know this can create some challenges for both children and adults! If there is a way that we can make picking up your child from AS easier, please let me know.

We are happy to support you and your child however we can.

We love getting to spend the afternoons with your children, and our goal is to make sure that AS is a fun and nurturing place for everyone to be. Please be sure to let me, or any other AS staff member know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Patrice Jennings
After-School Director

News from Becky and Melani

After our vacation the children seem rested and ready to get back to work. Even in our short, first week the classroom was quiet and the focus was remarkable. Children are happy to return to the routine and are excited to receive new concepts and to work with new materials.

Writing is a big part of a Montessori child's work. Every child in our community has finished his/her 'Time of Day' book. Please come in and appreciate the basket of descriptive, beautifully written books in our classroom. These illustrated books will also be on display at the art show. The children are now beginning our creative writing curriculum. It is an established and wonderful program called Picturing Writing. They begin by sketching a story board and then they paint the illustrations. In the next step they brainstorm ideas and generate descriptive words about each picture. Finally, the children write using 'silver dollar' words to describe the setting, characters, problem and solution. The pictures organize the child's writing into a structured sequence which supports the telling of the story. The stories are edited and finished beautifully with the look of a published book. Everyone sings and celebrates when a child completes a book.

In addition to creative writing, children learn to write in response to research questions. Reading for information and writing sentences in your own words from facts found in non-fiction resources can be challenging. Over the three years in a Montessori Elementary classroom, children learn how to read and look for facts that answer research questions. Our youngest students, the 'Bears', choose an animal card and lay out concrete question materials which organize research questions and answers. As a follow up, they draw a picture of the animal and write several of the answers they found in complete sentences below the picture. The 'Tigers,' work to complete a short research form that has four questions or topic areas. After reading accessible non-fiction text, they write three to four sentences about each of the four questions. The research is finished with beautiful illustrations. After choosing a research topic, the 'Lions' first read for information, and then take notes on the long research form. The form helps to organize the information. The next step is writing the facts into sentences and paragraphs. The final paper includes an introduction, a body of four or five paragraphs and a conclusion. And of course, the children illustrate these research projects with beautiful illustrations. The children are always proud of completed work!

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News from Becky and Melani

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The children love recess! The smiling faces and pink cheeks remind us how important going outside is to the overall health of children. It is always windier, and colder up on this hill! Children are going outside daily when the temperature is above 20 degrees and sledding is the favorite activity. Please check in with your child to make sure he/she is prepared for outside play. Teachers who monitor recess check clothing daily and the rules for recess wear are clear. It is with the children's safety in mind that we hold them accountable for dressing properly. Please make sure your child has warm snow boots, snow pants and coat, a hat that covers ears well and low temperature (possibly water proof) gloves or mittens. It is important that your child can manage their outdoor clothing independently.

Becky and I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for the generosity of parents and children during the holidays. Warm wishes, loving hugs and thoughtful gifts are sincerely appreciated. As we head into the long months of winter, we look forward to extended work times, exciting new lessons and the love of learning overflowing the classroom! Welcome back!

Melani and Becky



RECESS WEAR

School Policy as found in Handbook – If your child is not well enough to participate in outdoor recess, he/she is not well enough to be at school.

All temperature determinations take wind chill into account

Required Recess Clothing

Below 20 F: Indoor recess

Over 20 F: Outdoor recess for everyone. Listed below are the proper clothes for outdoor recess

We recommend children wear face protection when sledding.

20 – 30 F: Down or heavily lined coat
Hat
Waterproof gloves or mittens
Snowpants
Insulated boots

30 – 40 F: Down or heavily lined coat
Hat
Gloves or mittens
Snowpants, if sledding or sitting in snow
Boots, if snowy or ground is wet

40 – 50 F: Coat
Boots necessary if conditions are wet (water or snow)
Outdoor shoes otherwise
Hat and gloves
(For those who are involved in an active sport, polar fleece, sweatshirt, or sweater with one layer. Hat and gloves optional)

50 – 60 F: (For those who are not involved in an active sport:
Coat, polar fleece, sweatshirt, or sweater with one layer)

(For those who are involved in an active sport:
Long-sleeved shirt or a T-shirt with a windbreaker or light jacket)

Boots if playing in snow, mud, or water
Outdoor shoes for playing on paved surfaces, grass or stone