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# The Montessorian

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January 18, 2013

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

## *Calendar*

- Jan. 21            **NO SCHOOL – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Recess**  
Staff Curriculum Day
- Jan. 22            Snack Week for Zaira Bruno-Shadions, Julian Schneller and Theo Schneller
- 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. 28            **Extended Day Transition Meeting 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**  
**New Date: Please Note**
- 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. 25 – Mar. 6   Scholastic Book Fair (details to follow)
- 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**

## *Parent/Teacher Conferences*

Our Spring Parent-Teacher Conference schedules are being sent by e-mail. Please call Whitney or Rebecca as soon as you receive your letter to confirm your scheduled time. Thank you in advance for your prompt attention.

## *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 on **Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>** from 6:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

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 29<sup>th</sup>** 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 23<sup>rd</sup>** 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 22<sup>nd</sup>** 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 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you!

## *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 1<sup>st</sup> they reserve the right to deny transportation.

**There will be no busing for the  
Ithaca City School District  
Monday January 28<sup>th</sup>.**

**You will need to arrange transportation  
for your child/children to and from  
school on that day.**

**Thank you!**

## **SALUDOS de DOÑA CHERI...**

### **Report from the UPPER LEVEL SPANISH CLASSES**

If your child has not already mentioned it, please visit the website [www.wordplay.com](http://www.wordplay.com) for reinforcement of vocabulary. It is a free site that requires a login ID and password that you make up. Each week I suggest sections to focus on.

We have been quite busy with a new format this year. Each week students get a list of 10 words or phrases; they create flashcards, study them and then take a quiz the following week.

We still visit many of our old favorite songs and the colors, body parts and numbers have been well reviewed. The first year students have presented what is in their “mochila” (backpack) including items such as “las tijeras” (scissors); “el papel” (paper); “el bolígrafo” (pen) and “el almuerzo” (lunch). Their presentation used several verbs such as “hay” (there are) and “tengo” (I have). They did a fabulous job!

The second and third year students learned all the vocabulary necessary to serve pizza to the rest of the school on our pizza day. All performed a skit in class and for weeks now they have been putting this knowledge to use! Those who serve pizza to the younger students are asked to do so in Spanish...”Solo en Español!” The Junior Level and Extended Day students have also learned this vocabulary. Soon Friday’s pizza lunch times will sound like we are in Latin America!

The older students have been labeling items around the school as well. This helps teachers reinforce the vocabulary students have learned. Telling about one’s feelings is important. The older groups are able to tell you how they feel such as “tengo hambre” (I’m hungry), “tengo sed” (I’m thirsty), “estoy cansado” (I’m tired), or “estoy triste” (I’m sad). They also understand that “cansado” may change to “cansada” if referring to a female.

Upcoming: the first year students will be making invitations to an imaginary party and the older students will be working on verb conjugations. *Adios!*

## *The Library Lowdown*

Patrice Jennings, Librarian

### **Greetings from the Library!**

As a lifelong avid reader, (not to mention someone who spent 4 years managing the Ithaca Borders bookstore) I am reveling in my new role as Librarian. It is a pleasure to help our children maintain well organized and welcoming library spaces, and to listen to them as they engage each other in excited conversation about the books they have loved, books they are excited to read, and books they can't wait to recommend to their friends.

I'm delighted to report that this fall marked the beginning of a very vibrant and exciting period in the life of the Library. Tucked away in a room at the junction between Extended Day and Junior Level is the rapidly growing Main Building Library. Once a week children from Extended Day visit our library to enjoy a story with Laura and select a book to bring home to read over the next week. This weekly visit marks the beginning of their time as patrons of this library.

This year our library structure has changed so that each of the Junior Level classrooms has two librarians (from the Lions group) who support their classmates during library time, re-shelving books as they are returned, assisting in writing down books checked out on our library cards, and helping their peers select books that will be a "Just Right Book" for them. We are also developing a cadre of "test readers" who read a book when it is first introduced to the library, discuss with me what reading level they found it to be (emergent reader, egg, caterpillar, chrysalis or butterfly) and then write a short review of the book letting their peers know what they thought of it, determining what type of books it is similar to and then recommending it for people who are fans of that book genre. We have also re-implemented an avid reader program, offering a selection of books at the top reading level for our library, with a notebook recording the thoughts of those who have previously read them. Everyone who reads one of our avid reader books is invited to add their feedback; commentary, response or pictures to the notebooks, adding to the existing legacy for future visitors to the Main Building Library. Library patrons are encouraged to add suggestions to a list posted on the wall titled "Books I Wish the Library Had" and I am delighted to say that that list has generated over 50 suggestions and looking at the hard work and effort that has gone in to writing some of those titles on the list makes me incredibly proud of our readers!

Each Junior Level class has a scheduled half hour of library time each week, where all children in need of a book (either for silent reading in their classroom each day, or to take home) come to the library with their class librarians, and myself as Head Librarian, to peruse the shelves, look at covers, read descriptive blurbs, and discuss with their peers what books they might enjoy reading. As our Junior Level Librarians have gained confidence and skill we have also begun opening up the library every day from 11:00-12:00 under their sole supervision.

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## ***The Library Lowdown***

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**THANK YOUS:** Our library is still small, containing just under 3,000 volumes (2,842 according to our volunteer librarian/supporter count, given some guesstimation about how many books are checked out right now!) We have recently become the beneficiary of a number of donations, a trend started by two families this fall. This has snowballed into a growing number of children bringing in books from home (with parental permission!) to donate to the library. One dedicated fan of a particular series, desperate for the next book that the library did not own, convinced his family to buy the book he needed and then donated it to the library so others like him could continue reading it! Many thanks to all of you who have gifted books to our library! We all greatly appreciate it, and the children are always extra excited to find a new book on the shelves with a label that indicates it was a gift from someone they know. Thank you also to a recent donor who heard we needed to buy books and earmarked their contribution to the annual fund for the Library!

### **REMINDERS:**

- Please make sure that if you find a forgotten library book at home that it makes its way back to school.
- Please help reinforce the gentle and respectful treatment of our library books.
- And please jump in and talk with your children about what they are reading! Our readers are becoming very choosy about the books they check out from the library, they are often being asked to share their opinion about what they have read, and to engage in dialogue with their peers about the books they have enjoyed.

### **Library wish list:**

- 1) More books! We're delighted to take any books you are willing to gift. I'm happy to gauge reading level and make sure they make it into the library for the appropriate age group.
- 2) 3-4 bean bag chairs for readers to cozy up in while they peruse books.

# 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