
The Montessorian

May 3, 2013

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

Calendar

- May 6 Snack Week for Lila Russel, Khai Matsudaira & Skye Paskins
- May 6 First Marching Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 6 Upper Level Boston Trip Chaperone Meeting, Annex, 7 p.m.
- May 6 – 10 Disabilities Awareness Week
- May 6 - 10 Upper Level Test Preparation Days
- May 7 Big Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 7 – 10 Junior Level Test Preparation Days
- May 8 No Band Rehearsal
- May 8 Upper Level Second Year Trip
to Johnson Art Museum 9:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- May 8 Play Auditions 3:30 Mini-Gym
- May 8 No Afternoon Dryden Bus
- May 9 Percussion Ensemble 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 10 Marching Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 10 Elizabeth Ann Clune Day
- May 10 – 11 NYSSMA Festival for Upper Level and Middle School Students
- May 13 Marching Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 13- 16 Upper Level Testing
- May 13 - 16 Junior Level Test Preparation Days
- May 13 – 17 Middle School Marine Ecology Trip to New Hampshire Coast
- May 14 Big Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 15 No Band Rehearsal
- May 15 Board Meeting 4:15 p.m.
- May 16 Percussion Ensemble 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 17 Marching Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 20 Marching Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 20 – 23 Upper Level Trip to Boston
- May 20 - 23 Junior Level Testing
- May 21 Big Band Rehearsal 8 a.m. Mini-gym
- May 22 No Band Rehearsal
- May 22 Scott and Deb's Class Field Trip
to Cornell Plantations 12:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.
- May 22-23 Middle School Second Year Students Mentorships
- May 23 No Percussion Ensemble
- May 23 Coffee Shop 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. in Mini-Gym
- May 24 & 27 **NO SCHOOL – Memorial Day Recess**
- May 29 Ithaca Festival Parade (details to follow)
- May 30 Upper Level Research Fair 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
- May 31 No Band Rehearsal
- May 31 EAC Montessori Big Band performance
Ithaca Festival, noon, (details to follow)

Our School Musical

Excitement for this year's production of "The Phantom Tollbooth" is beginning to build. As students prepare for the May 8th auditions, we would like to take the opportunity to frame this amazing experience for parents in the context of the Montessori spiral curriculum.

At EACMSI, skills in performance and public speaking are practiced in every classroom throughout the school year with the goal of giving children the skill and confidence to comfortably express themselves in front of teachers, peers, the school community and ultimately the larger community. They are offered a diverse thread of opportunities such as memorization of verse/song, memorization of facts, participation in classroom skits, reader's theater, and author's circles. Students present at demonstration nights, research fairs as well as genealogy and portfolio nights. As part of a group, they join peers in vocal and instrumental concerts and of course our yearly musical theater production. Finally, public speaking and performance skills culminate in a middle school student's graduation speech! These opportunities exemplify our commitment to offer children the means to practice these essential life skills.

In preparation for the end of the year musical, it is important to understand this experience's place in the development of a child's public speaking and performance skills. The end of the year musical at EACMSI gives children in the later elementary years a comprehensive opportunity to participate in a variety of aspects involved in a musical theater production. Through the acting, music and songs, children involved successfully practice and perform skills in front of a large audience. This experience supports and furthers the holistic development of these children, allowing for personal challenge and growth and enjoyable experiences through a staged musical theater production. Children create sets and props in a mini-course and with the support of parents, incredible costumes are found/created for each actor. The objective of the process is to offer our students the opportunity to practice performing and expressing themselves confidently on a stage.

Musicals are chosen for their possibilities as a staged performance. Typically, they are not a part of our literature or cultural studies. Our week of "Playmania" allows students to develop a deeper understanding of the chosen musical and experience a variety of topics related to its setting, plot and characters. The children and adults become enchanted with the magic of the songs and dance routines. It is certainly a hallmark of the end of the year at EACMSI when students and adults are randomly heard breaking into these songs at all times of the day! We all have the same songs stuck in our heads, over and over!

The process and the focus of the weeks leading to the performance hold with it the expectation that each participant support every other member of the cast and crew while working to bring one's best self to the experience. Excitement is palpable, and pride is observable in each and every child as they move through the theater experience.

The final performance involves taking over one hundred children, sets, costumes and props to the State Theatre. Children bring their best to this amazing challenge and together we all perform and celebrate!

Melani & Terry

Audition Information

Dear EAC Community,

Due to the size constraints of our mini-gym, parents will not be able to attend auditions this year. We thank you in advance for your support and understanding.

Auditions will begin at 3:30 p.m. on May 8th in the mini-gym. Children are encouraged to remain during the entire audition process to support their peers. Auditions typically end around 5:30 p.m. If you need to pick your child up early, please let us know.

We recommend including an extra snack in lunch boxes on audition day. We will also have some snacks available.

Thank you,

Mel, Terry, and Dawn.

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 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 and those Tigers who do not audition, will participate in games and activities while the other 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!

Auditions will take place on Wednesday, May 8.

NEWS FROM THE HEALTH OFFICE

With warmer weather upon us we would like to remind parents of school recommendations with regard to sunscreen use and application.

We request that students arrive at school each day with sunscreen already applied. Please choose sunscreens that will last throughout the school day. Sunhats and sunblock clothing are also recommended.

If children need sunscreen reapplied later in the day, complete the permission form below. Teachers and Afterschool staff will be available to assist as needed. Sunscreen for your child must be brought to school by an adult, in its original container, and labeled with your child's name. Please check ingredients to avoid sunscreens that contain treenut (including coconut and sheanut) or peanut products. Primary and Extended Day Children will keep their sunscreen in their clothes boxes in their cubbies. Older children will keep their sunscreen in coatroom cubbies/lockers.

If you have any questions, please call the health office at 277-7335. Thank you for your attention.

Your School Nurses,

Kelly & Nancy

SUNSCREEN PERMISSION FORM

Please complete the following if your child will use sunscreen at school:

I give permission for my child (name) _____
to use sunscreen as needed during school or the Afterschool program.

I will provide sunscreen for my child, in its original container and labeled with the proper name.

Note: No sunscreen is provided by our school.

Parent Signature: _____ Date: _____

Teachers/Classroom: _____

PLEASE include this signed form with the labeled sunscreen.



Music News from Linda

Extended Day and Junior Level

Spring has sprung! In celebration of Spring, our Extended Day children have learned many songs related to nature, flowers, and birds, including “Bluebird, Bluebird,” “Round Robin,” and “There Came to My Window.” The children enjoyed singing the songs in rounds, and were able to accompany songs through the use of non-pitched instruments: triangles, tone bars, finger cymbals, and wooden blocks. The children also learned to read and perform simple rhythmic patterns that include quarter notes, half notes, eighth notes, and quarter rest. In our classroom, the children read quarter notes as “ta,” half notes as “ta-a,” eighth notes as “ti-ti,” and quarter rest is called “rest.”

Our Junior Level Bears enjoyed singing, “Bluebird, Bluebird” and “Old King Glory of the Mountain”. Through these songs, the children learned that an ostinato is a repeated pattern used to accompany songs or rhymes. We performed simple rhythm patterns with body percussion, as well as finger cymbals and hand drums. The Tigers have been working hard with their recorders. We are currently working on “Canon” and “Skin and Bones”. We also integrated playing recorders to great stories: *Rabbit and the Lettuce Seed* and *Caps for Sale*. The students played a simple “Do-La” and “Sol-Mi” melody to accompany the stories. The Lions continue to sing in chorus in their weekly classes. These children have also been practicing and making great progress on their recorder skills.

Upper Level

In music class, the first year students recently learned a hand clapping song called “Four Brown Caribou”, also known as “Four White Horses,” which is a traditional Caribbean folk song. This is a fun singing/clapping game to play with four people. In small groups, the children were asked to make up a new and creative 4 or 8 beats hand clapping pattern or movement to go with the song. Each group then shared their creation. The performances were superior! The second year students greatly enjoyed learning how to contra dance. A contra dance is a partnered folk dance in which couples dance in two facing circles or parallel lines. The children learned two dances; circle and line formation. The third year students are in process of learning and singing more African songs like “Kye Kye Kole”, which is a singing game (“call and response”) from Ghana and “Siyanibulisa”, and “Mangwani Mpulele”, which are wonderful songs from Zulu. We will be watching a short film called “Mufaro’s Beautiful Daughter,” which is an African folktale and find out more about how each traditional African instrument was made and played, such as the djembes, twanga, huhu, conch shell, gome, and asasa.

Many thanks to all the parents for your generous gifts and support. I feel very grateful to be part of this school community.

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!

Attention All Talented & Creative Parents

WE NEED YOU!!



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.

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

Courses are offered everyday for 5 days for one hour, 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 YOUR DESCRIPTION MONDAY MAY 6th!
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: _____

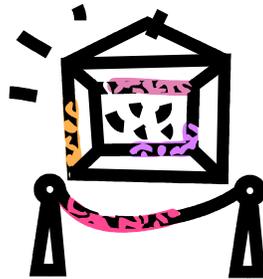
Please fill out and turn in to the office by ~~Friday, May 3rd~~.

New Deadline: Monday May 6th!

Rescheduled

Field Trip to Johnson Art Museum

Upper Level 2nd Year Students

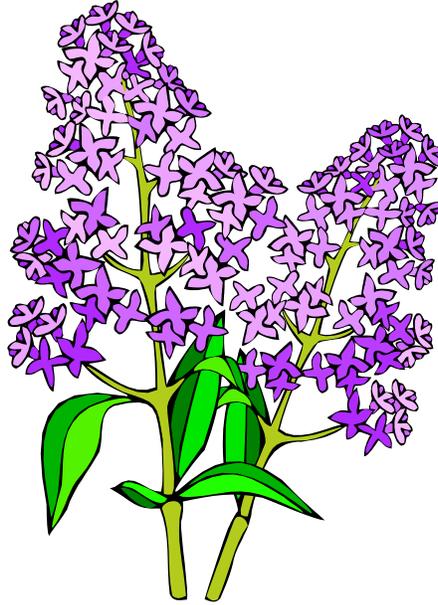


On **Wednesday May 8**, Upper Level 2nd Year students will be going on a field trip to the Johnson Art Museum. They will leave at 9:45 a.m. and return at 12:30 p.m.

We need drivers for this trip. Please call the office to let us know if you can help.

277-7335

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 need a few drivers for this trip.
Please call the office if you can help.
277-7335**

Friends of Tompkins County Public Library

book sale



May 4-6

May 11-13

May 18-21

3 long weekends!

Every day 10 am - 8 pm, except:

May 4, 8 - 8 and May 21, 12 - 8

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The Birds Are Back!

Join us

Saturday, May 11, 2013

10:00 A.M.–3:00 P.M.

Free!

at the Cornell Lab of Ornithology
159 Sapsucker Woods Road
Ithaca, New York, 14850
607-254-2473



Sapsucker Woods Migration Celebration

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATORY BIRD DAY

Face
painting



Bird banding
demo



Live birds
of prey

Learn about bird migration

Join the new
Migration Mobile Adventure

Kids can also enjoy face painting,
crafts, and games

Check out our research projects

10:30 A.M.
Noon

Guided
bird walks



Nest-
monitoring
walks

1:00 P.M.
2:00 P.M.

www.birds.cornell.edu/birdday