
The Montessorian

November 9, 2012

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

Calendar

- Nov. 12 **NO SCHOOL – Veterans’ Day**
- Nov. 13 Snack week for Lila Russel, Meera Renjen and Koen Anderson
- Nov. 13 3rd year Upper Level trip to the Johnson Museum 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15 Coffee Shop and Coffee Talk with the Board 8:00 – 9:30
- Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Feast (more details to follow)
- Nov. 21 – 23 **NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 28 Middle School field trip to Auburn:
Harriet Tubman House and Seward Mansion 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 5 Board Meeting 4:15
- Dec. 6 EAC Winter Concert, Hanger Theatre 7:00 p.m. (details to follow)
- Dec. 7 Holiday Bazaar (details to follow)
- Dec. 13 Ski Club meeting for parents and children 4:30 in the mini-gym
- Dec. 20 Festival of Light
- Dec 21- Jan 1 **NO SCHOOL - Holiday Break**

News from Dawn and Katri

It sure feels like November around here! Daylight dwindles, hats and mittens have reappeared, the trees have suddenly become leafless silhouettes... and in our warm and cozy classroom our community of children and adults have settled into a peaceful hum of purposefulness and collaboration.

A few weeks ago we enjoyed a fabulous trip to the Cornell Plantations. The woods were ablaze and we took our time walking through them from the vans to the Visitor Center and back. It was one of those perfect fall days and we spent the entire morning outside learning about the parts of plants; seeds, stems, leaves and flowers. The related activities included making corn brooms, leaf prints, flowers from cornhusks and extracting fibers from the flax plant. We concluded our visit with a picnic lunch before returning to school, where we spent the rest of the afternoon painting "day" in the field of dreams!

The day paintings are part of our Picturing Writing curriculum, which is in full swing. The children are working on completing their "time of day" books; painting six different times of day and composing related descriptive text to accompany each. The process of brainstorming words to describe the parts of a painting, taking these ideas to create sentences and then editing them into a final copy is a method that the children will continue to use as they move into creative story writing. Here is an example this playful writing created by one of our senior students, Phoebe Whitham:

The sun is lazy, but still more than happy to take over for the moon. The honey colored orb floats over the horizon line in a lemony glow, as the soft easygoing sky enjoys the calm. The horizon line joyously spreads out and welcomes the sun and sky, as the grass content to watch this happy scene, waves silently in its own limey wonder.

Look for these delightful books at the end of year Art show!

Recently, the children have begun meeting with us in small literature groups of 4-7 children once a week. They take turns reading aloud, practicing fluency, comprehension and reading strategies. The children are invited to practice this kind of reading with a friend during work time. In addition to this reading practice, thank you to Jen Novarr and Carolyn Chang for coming in to have children read aloud to them.

It was so fun to see the children come in on UN Day in their cultural costumes. They each stood up at the edge of the rug and shared the country that they were representing and a fact or two of what they had learned about it as part of their individual research projects. As is tradition, at our UN Day assembly the Middle School presented a slide show about their trip to the UN and read a story about the rights of the child. Our celebration culminated with a delicious multicultural feast. Thank you to the Lions for enthusiastically preparing the room for our guests – and thank you to the parents and grandparents who joined us for lunch!

Thank you to Mickie Sanders-Jauquet for her help with material making. Thank you to the Colb-Dorf family for donating an air popper for popcorn. We have been enjoying the popped results as well as the fragrance in the classroom! Thanks to other donations of tea and honey. The children are enjoying their opportunities to visit and savor a warm treat together.

PE News from Gary

The month of October was spent playing tag games & reinforcing running activities to help build strength for the mile run. As October came to an end, we finished up our unit and were ready for the run. The actual run took a little longer to complete as the colder, wetter weather altered the event temporarily and classes were held indoors. I can happily report that all classes braved the elements earlier this week with every class completing the mile run. This bi-annual unit focuses on aerobic fitness, a vital component to a healthy lifestyle. I encourage all families to keep up your children's training and hard work by giving them opportunities to reinforce their efforts. The next mile-run will be in the spring.

The Middle School students had their first mile run experience at the new A&E building at Ithaca College. It is a beautiful building with an amazing indoor track that seemed to help motivate the students to run faster! Our school is very fortunate to have the college share their facilities with us. Special thanks to Dan Robinson (Eli and Connor's Dad) for helping make this experience a reality.

The next units, depending on whether we are inside or outside will focus on track and field, Frisbee activities, and a variety of tag games.

Extended Day children will continue to do the "Hokey Pokie", practice a variety of movements and learn tag games. These activities will encourage sportsmanship and fun and will release their endless energy!

As the weather turns chillier, classes will be held outside as much as possible. Remember~ your child must have available an indoor & outdoor pair of sneakers on any gym day. ☺



SALUDOS DE DOÑA CHERI.....NEWS AND GREETINGS FROM SPANISH CLASSES

Extended Day Spanish classes have been busy learning all sorts of songs. As this is their first year of Spanish class, they are learning the style of the class as well as a slew of new vocabulary. The introductory song of *¿Cómo te llamas tú?* (What is your name?), has grown into mini conversations with peers. Learning language through song allows great absorption of vocabulary and pronunciation. Once the song is “memorized”, additional vocabulary is introduced.

Students in Extended Day have learned 10 colors and about a dozen words that are used daily in school such as “el lápiz” (pencil); “el papel” (paper); “el libro” (book) and “la manzana” (apple). As we begin to describe the color of objects they are automatically learning subject/adjective agreement in number and gender. The students beautifully repeat the words with correct placement and learn it automatically. I ask *¿De qué color es el papel?* and they respond “blanco!”. “¡Claro que sí, este es el color de blanco!”, I reinforce. The students hear a lot of Spanish and are able to answer the question, even if it is just a single word answer.

All of our students have learned how to respond to the following commands: they raise their hand when they hear “levántate la mano”; they will sit up straight and listen when they hear “siéntate bonito y escucha bien”. They even respond with a few Brain Gym exercises after hearing the signal: “conectate” (hook up) and “jálate [ha lah tay]las orejas” (pull your ears). A fun song we sing is “ábrete las; ciérrate las” (open shut them – referring to their hands) then “póntelas aquí” (place them here – and I show them where as we change it around). Learning the words for “open” and “close” is very useful. Little do they know they are learning the usage of double object pronoun in the imperative verb form! This takes a first time college student many a test to learn!

Wednesdays, Extended Day Spanish class gets a chance to move around and use our special mini gym. What a fun time that is! Our latest challenge was playing “pato pato ganso” (duck duck goose!). Students also respond to instructions such as “párate” (freeze) or “baila” (dance) or “brinca” (jump). It is great fun learning the action words!

Junior Level Spanish has changed this year from once to twice per week. All students in Junior Level have Spanish on Tuesdays and Thursdays for a half hour each day. They meet from all 3 classrooms in their groups of: the “osos” (bears), “tigres” (tigers) and “leones” (lions). They too have been practicing and improving upon the songs learned last year, Brain Gym commands, and classroom commands. A song they may be singing at home is the “Buenos días; cómo estás” song. They have learned how to express 8 different feelings and also 8 polite responses to someone who may state that feeling. My favorite last week in honor of Halloween was “tengo mucho miedo” (I am very afraid) with a response “no te preocupes” (don’t you worry). In another article I will publish all of the feelings and responses so that you may learn along with your child at home!

The “osos” are now learning how to cook a soup all in Spanish. They will know many vegetables and many commands used to make a soup such as “lava” (wash); “corta/pica” (cut/chop) and “cocina” (cook). The goal is to have them comfortable speaking to a peer, giving them how to instructions on making soup.

The “tigres” and the “leones” are making their own booklet throughout the year. They have made a cover page, pages for greetings and colors, and soon will have many action words/verbs. I am delighted to see them continue to be comfortable speaking Spanish. These groups will soon be asked to only speak Spanish when getting served their pizza lunch!

Deadline for Ordering School Photos Friday!

The deadline for ordering school photos is **Friday, November 9th**

Information about viewing and ordering school photos online was emailed. Please look for this message.

You can view school pictures online at: www.carolchaplin.com

Click on the Event Photos button

Enter Gallery Code/Keyword : eacmsi

Choose EACMSI School Photos 2012

Enter your email address and password: blue

Classes (and student photos) are in the Categories list

If you have questions, please contact Carol by phone at 272-4629 or by email at

cchaplin@twcny.rr.com

Late orders will be charged an additional 25% fee

Take Time to Relax and Smell the Coffee...



Come meet Board members and other parents! On Thursday, November 15, during the Middle School Coffee Shop parents can gather and relax over coffee and pastries, baked fresh by our Middle School students. Tables and chairs will be set up in our mini-gym so parents can linger, chat and enjoy their goodies. Younger siblings are welcome. Proceeds of coffee shops support a variety of Middle School community service projects and trips.

Coffee Shop runs from 8:00 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Hope to see you there!

Baby It's Cold Outside!

With the cold weather approaching we need to remind each family to be sure to provide their child with snow clothes. We will go outside every day as long as the temperature is 20 degrees or above.

Some suggestions for clothing:

Warm boots that do not have removable liners. Boots should be tall enough so that snow cannot get in between the bottom of the snowpants and top of the boots.

Coats that are easy to fasten and are long enough to cover the top of the snowpants so that snow cannot get in.

Waterproof mittens or ski gloves with strings or mitten holders attached to the coat.

Please avoid thin knitted gloves. They are difficult to get on and are not warm.

Hats should cover the forehead and cheeks. Please be sure the coat or hat provides neck coverage.

Snow pants/coats/full snow suits – Please purchase what your child can put on independently.

Getting the children outside is very important to us and the children love it, except when their clothes do not provide proper warmth, protection or ease of use. With your help and forethought your child can be independent, warm and safe!

Thank you in advance for your attention.



EACMSI Middle School

Thanksgiving Coffee Shop!!



Thursday, November 15th, 2012
8:00 – 9:30 a.m. in the mini-gym

The Middle School invites you to our first coffee shop of the year!

Featuring delicious fresh-brewed coffee
with our scrumptious student-made treats!



🍂 Scones 🍂 Brownies 🍂 Quick Bread 🍂 Chocolate and
Vanilla Shortbread 🍂 Spinach Puff Pastry 🍂 Cookies



ALSO, JOIN THE BOARD FOR COFFEE TALK!

Thank you for supporting EACMSI Middle School trips and community service projects.

THANKSGIVING FEAST TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20TH

As is our Montessori tradition, our school Thanksgiving Feast will be held on **Tuesday, November 20th**. Each class will prepare part of the meal for lunch. Half day Primary children are invited to stay: parents should plan to pick them up at 12:30 p.m.

If your child will not be at the Feast, please let the office know.

We need cider donations (pasteurized only for the health of our children, please) as well as help setting up, serving and cleaning up.

Please contact the office if you are able to help.



Field Trip to Johnson Art Museum Upper Level 3rd Year Students



On Tuesday, November 13, 2012, Upper Level 3rd Year students will be going on a field trip to the Johnson Art Museum. They will leave at 9:40 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.

Help earn cash for our school with the Box Tops for Education Program

EAC Montessori is continuing the Box Tops for Education program this year. This fundraiser allows us to raise money without any additional cost to you other than buying your usual groceries. The program has three easy steps:

1. Clip Box Tops Coupons from participating products (see below for sample).
2. Send your box tops into school. There is a collection box in the front office. We will collect the coupons and send them to General Mills.
3. General Mills will send our school a check worth 10 cents for each coupon sent in.

To see a list of all the products that support the Box Tops program, go to www.BoxTops4Education.com. Qualifying products include Betty Crocker, General Mills, Cascadian Farm, Old El Paso, Ziploc, Kleenex, Pillsbury, Green Giant, Nature Valley and many more.



An easy way to collect is to place an envelope on your refrigerator as a reminder and collection place for the coupons.

Questions? Please call Alex Pfeifer at 592-9030, or email at alexpfeifer@gmail.com



You're invited to a special event!

Olivia Bouler Art Opening & Drawing Workshops (FREE!)

Saturday, November 17, 2012, 10:00 A.M. to 1:00 P.M.
Cornell Lab of Ornithology, 159 Sapsucker Woods Road

Thirteen-year-old Olivia has been touring the country to raise money for bird conservation. She raised more than \$200,000 for this purpose immediately following the Gulf of Mexico oil spill in 2010. Please join us to enjoy a new exhibit of Olivia's work at the Cornell Lab. Children's art activities will be offered. Olivia's books will also be available at the Wild Birds Unlimited store in the observatory. Refreshments will be provided. Pre-teen and older children may participate in one of four special drawing workshops led by Cornell Lab artists.

Program

10:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m

Children's art activities; view exhibit

11:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Presentation by Olivia Bouler

12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Reception and book signing

Drawing Workshops (registration required, ages pre-teen and up)

10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

* Drawing habitat and showing depth in artwork

* How to draw birds

Color pencils and paper will be provided.

To register for one of the drawing workshops please visit

<https://secure3.birds.cornell.edu/page.aspx?pid=2559>

(click on the link or type it into your browser). Limit six per workshop.

Hope to see you there!