
The Montessorian

October 12, 2012

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

Calendar

- Oct. 13 Cancer Resource Center of the Fingerlakes Walkathon and 5K Run,
10:00 a.m., Cass Park.
- Oct. 15 Snack week for Elijah Kelly, Isaac Kaltman, Lawrence Perkins
- Oct. 17 Dawn & Katri's Class Field Trip to Cornell Plantations
10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 17-18 Middle School Trip to New York City
- Oct. 18 First Observation Day
- Oct. 19 No School for Middle School Students Only
- Oct. 20 Open House for Prospective Families 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
- Oct. 24 United Nations Day Celebration
- Oct. 31 Halloween Carnival (details to follow)
- Nov. 1 Middle School Field Trip to Scranton, PA
Steamtown National Historic Site/Lackawanna Coal Mine
7:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8-9 **NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Nov. 12 **NO SCHOOL – Veterans' Day**
- Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Feast (details to follow)
- Nov. 21 – 23 **NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break**

Movement Matters

“When mental development is under discussion, there are many who say, ‘How does movement come into it? We are talking about the mind.’ And when we think of intellectual activity, we always imagine people sitting still, motionless. But mental development must be connected with movement and be dependent on it. It is vital that educational theory and practice should be informed by this idea.”

Montessori, 1967

When visitors observe in the main building of EACMSI, they will see children periodically marching past on “Stilt Blocks.” They walk, feet placed on the wooden blocks, while pulling up on measured strings. Each child has asked permission after first *noticing* they need a “movement break.” The children are directed to the Movement Shelf and can then make a choice of work that would best serve their needs. When walking on stilts, children are activating large muscle groups, practicing stability and balance and integrating their brains and bodies in preparation to go back to work. There are many kinds of independent work choices found on classroom Movement Shelves. As in all curricular areas, initial lessons in Fundamental Movement or specific movement extensions are given and concrete materials are then placed on the shelf. Children can independently choose to practice movement lessons.

Dr. Montessori felt strongly that movement be a part of every child’s education. So much so, that her first educational premise states that movement and cognition are closely entwined and movement can enhance thinking and learning. As we move through our day, each of us takes in information into our bodies through all of our senses. That information is then integrated in the brain and ultimately what we know and what we learn through movement guides the choices we make.

Each of Montessori’s lessons has a movement component. Every lesson process incorporates practice and repetition of movements that support the work of learning. As children repeat gross motor and fine motor movement patterns, neural pathways and motor memory develop. The Direct Aims of ‘work’ in a Montessori classroom are to develop order, coordination, concentration, and independence. In Montessori classrooms, children practice moving through the classroom with purpose and in a mindful and coordinated manner. Children who have mastered developmentally appropriate gross motor skills are more often able to access the fine motor movements required for learning in a school environment. To develop refined movements one must begin with gross motor, large muscle movement.

At our school, the need for every child to *move* is honored. We support this need in many ways. A pedagogically sound Physical Education program is implemented and in addition, our youngest children receive movement lessons in the classrooms which support the development and mastery of Fundamental Movement Skills. All of our students are introduced to Brain Gym®, Dream of the Good, Yoga, Motor Activities and Centering Exercises. We feel these Movement Based Learning techniques help children build self awareness and build skills which support each child’s ability to advocate for his or her personal needs.

When you come to observe, do not be surprised if you see children practicing yoga, meditating with stones, sitting quietly tracing figure labyrinths, practicing a Brain Gym Activity, walking a rug-sized 8, throwing sock balls in the hallway, playing ‘Spot Scotch’ in an open space, or practicing Fundamental Movements between two ropes right in the middle of the classroom!

In Dr. Montessori’s own words, *“the child has an internal power to bring about coordination, which he thus creates himself, and once these have begun to exist he goes on perfecting them by practice.”*

Montessori, 1967

Keep Moving!
Melani

Open House

There is an Open House scheduled for Saturday October 20th from 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. At these events, we open our doors to families in the community and give them the opportunity to experience our beautiful buildings and the unique educational environments we offer to children.

In the past, we have found it helpful to have current parents and older students available at the Open House to give guided tours.

If you would like to act as a tour guide at the Open House, please let Lisa, Whitney, or Rebecca know. Please invite your non-Montessori friends!!

United Nations Day

It is an EAC Montessori School tradition to celebrate United Nations Day. This year UN Day is on **Wednesday, October 24th**. UN Day is celebrated in many schools all over the world. It has particular relevance to the citizens of the United States, as most of our families originally emigrated here from other countries. We feel this is a great opportunity to discuss your family's heritage and ancestry with your children. Please share pictures and stories about your ancestors or relatives, and/or show your child any family treasures or keepsakes that have been handed down through the generations.

As part of our school celebration on **Wednesday, October 24th**, we are inviting the children to wear a simple outfit that reflects some part of their family's ethnic heritage or cultural identity. **Children should arrive at school in their outfit.**

Please look for information from the teachers that went out earlier this week. **Your child may need to return a form!**

Classroom Observations

Classes at EAC Montessori will be open for observation starting on October 18th. Observations are held on Thursday mornings, and begin at 9:15 a.m. and are for adults only.

If you would like to observe your child's class, or any of the other levels, please contact the office to set up an appointment. If it is impossible for you to observe on Thursdays, we can make alternate arrangements. We limit the number of observers in each classroom so that the children do not feel overwhelmed by adult bodies. You are always welcome to bring a friend, just remember to inform the office when scheduling your appointment.

News from After-School

The After-School program is off to an incredible start this year with over 50 children enrolled for every day! Our awesomely fun After-School staff, and our wonderful school facility make this program the place to be from 3:30-5:30 Monday-Friday.

The weather has smiled upon us almost every day we've been in session and we have spent the majority of our afternoons outside enjoying the great weather. Our Primary and Extended Day children have folded and tested a fleet of airplanes, experimented with a wide variety of sidewalk chalk types and colors, enjoyed some great guitar sing-a-longs, and have recently begun wearing and decorating some raffia and leaf crowns to celebrate the season of autumn. Trucks, the sandbox, the play house and a great group of children have also been highlights of the After-School year so far.

The Junior Level, Upper Level and Middle School students have been enjoying the great outdoors over on the Field of Dreams. It is the perfect place to spend a late Summer or Autumn afternoon, with the pond to explore, the meadow, soccer field and labyrinth to play in, and good friends to help you enjoy it.

As the weather turns cooler and we move inside for longer periods of time we will bring back more of our favorite inside projects; cooking, clay work, and musical jamming will all be back on our agenda soon enough. We'll also bring back our giant, rolling treasure chest of activities filled with, puzzles, games, fuse beads and other arts & crafts.

With the onset of serious homework season for our Upper Level and Middle School participants we have re-instituted our Homework Club, which provides these children with supported homework time from 4:30-5:30 Monday through Thursday. Children spend this time over in the Upper Level building with Allison Boex, Middle School Latin teacher, our primary After-School Homework support person, or J.P. Nawn, an After-School veteran who is stepping across the street and into this role when Allie is not here.

To support our expanded and ever growing After-School program we have welcomed a number of new and fabulous faces: **Bryan Davis**, a professional musician joins us several days a week bringing his love of children small and large as well as his experience gardening, playing music, and exploring the great outdoors. **Walt Mann** joins us, taking a break from full time parenting. Walt is looking forward to bringing his extensive background in outdoor education with Cornell Outdoor Education and National Outdoor Leadership School, "to play" (as it were) with our After-School group. **Emmy Smith**, EAC alumna, is now revisiting her old stomping grounds, taking advantage of her flexible schedule as an Ithaca High School senior by joining our team once a week. Returning to the After-School staff this year are: **Linda Chen**, EAC Junior Level and Primary Music Teacher, **Julie Dean**, professional potter and EAC parent, **Jeff deCastro**, EAC Junior Level and Extended Day Art Teacher and EAC parent, **Meridith Jones**, Primary Teacher and expert birder, **J.P. Nawn**, professional musician, and myself, **Patrice Jennings**, EAC Middle School micro-enterprise teacher, Reading Support, EAC parent, and Director of the After-School program.

As always if you have any questions about the program feel free to contact us. After-School staff are always reachable M-F 3:00-6:00 on the After-School phone 607.279.5406. Enrollment is handled through our main office. Questions about After-School programming and curriculum can be addressed to me, either at the After-School email afterschool@eacmsi.org or my cell phone 607.351.0615.

PE News From Gary

I would like to welcome all our new and returning families to the beginning of a wonderful school year. The enthusiastic energy from the students has felt contagious as each class learns to cooperate and participate with each other in an active, peaceful and safe environment.

This year is an exciting transition year as we watch our school grow! During this process the previous gym space has been reduced by half. This is a temporary situation; the end result will be a newer and larger space by next Fall. Until then, we will use the outdoors as much as possible, especially during large activities. It is imperative to send your children to school with proper outdoor attire to allow them to participate comfortably. **All students must have an outside pair of sneakers** as well as an inside pair for when we using the inside gym.

Sports and competition, even tag games, can sometimes bring out interesting aspects of our children's personalities! In order to create a cooperative environment, I teach in a way that takes the emphasis off of winning. The students are lead through activities that encourage exercise and safety as the focus; rather than the final score. If your child participates in sports outside of school this may be a very different experience!

Classes are conducted with a mixture of different events. The main focus over the past few weeks with all students (except the Extended Day), has been in preparing for the mile run. Each class has been adding another lap around the track when we meet together. The goal is to reach a total of 8 laps (a mile) for all students (7-laps for the Junior Level Tigers and 6-laps for the Junior Level Bears). Each student is encouraged to work on challenging themselves against last spring's personal time by improving to the best of their ability. As always, I encourage support from home to help promote a fit and active lifestyle. A family that finds ways to exercise together creates a foundation for their children to build upon as they grow into adults. I ask you to share your love of movement by asking your child to show you how far and long they can run! Please stress "**pace**" not a "race".

The extended day students have been enjoying their time together in class. The children have explored many ways in which the hoola-hoops can be used, both independently and cooperatively. We always practice with enough "personal space" to prevent accidents within the classroom. All of the students have learned a variety of movement skills to have fun getting around the gym.

Thank you for all of your continuing support and I look forward to another year with your wonderful children. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, concerns or to discuss the opportunity to volunteer in the classroom.

EACMSI SKI CLUB

SKI CLUB BEGINS ON THURSDAY, JANUARY 3rd
and continues 1/10, 1/24, 1/31, 2/7, 2/14, 3/7 & 3/14

**If you have not purchased your ski pass yet, prices go up
on Monday! You can still join!!!**

If you bought your ski pass through EACMSI this spring, then
you are already in ski club!

To purchase a season ski pass or a ski club program pass...

- Please go online <https://register.communitypass.net/greekpeak>
- Be sure to indicate you'd like to be part of the EAC Montessori School Ski Club
- **Please do NOT purchase a food book**

If you'd like to ride our bus to Greek Peak (you must be at least 9 years old),
please send a check for **\$120.00** payable to EACMSI

The bus fills quickly. Send a check in right away to reserve your seat!!!

See Lisa for questions or details.

Dawn & Katri's Class Field Trip to the **Cornell Plantations**



Dawn & Katri's Junior Level class
is going on a field trip to the
Cornell University Plantations on Wednesday, October 17th.

We are leaving at 10:00 a.m. and returning at 1:30 p.m.
Children should dress for the weather and bring a brown bag lunch.

We will need drivers for this trip.

Please let the office know if you can help.

Dear Montessori Families,

Several families from our school are participating in the Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes' Walkathon and 5K Run this Saturday, October 13th.

We first joined the event last year in honor of our founder, Andrea Riddle. This year we will again honor Andrea and show our support for everyone in our community who has fought or is fighting cancer. Our EAC team is growing, and there is still time to join us!

You can join Team EAC online at:

<http://crcfl.kintera.org/faf/home/default.asp?ievent=1022328>

If you plan on walking or running with our team this year, please wear as much bright green as you can, along with a colorful bandana. This is how we will find each other at Cass Park on Saturday morning!

If you have any questions, please email Lisa Swayze lswayze@impactdc.com

Thanks and GO TEAM EAC!



Members of the Elizabeth Ann Clune Montessori School of Ithaca, Cancer Resource Center of the Finger Lakes Walkathon and 5K Run, October 2011

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

THE CORNELL EAST ASIA PROGRAM PRESENTS:

Martial Arts in Performance, Health, and Practice

October 26-28, 2012 at Cornell University

ALL EVENTS ARE FREE, NO TICKETS REQUIRED

FAMILY EVENTS**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26**7:00 PM
200 Barnes Hall**Cornell Wushu Performance****Beijing Opera: Uproar in Heaven****Featuring Performers from the NY Traditional Art Center**Cosponsored by the East Asia Program and the Confucius
Institute of Chinese Opera at Binghamton University**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**

10:30 - 11:30 AM

Johnson Museum

Martial Arts Artifact TourFamily-friendly tour in which participants can view and learn about
preserved martial arts artifacts

1:00 - 5:00 PM

Robert Purcell
Community Center (RPCC)
Multipurpose Room**Martial Arts Demonstrations**

- Cornell student organizations and area clubs: Karate, Kendo, Aikido, Judo
- Demonstrations of traditional Japanese weapons systems led by Larry E. Bieri,
Chief Instructor, Finger Lakes Koryu-kai, Finger Lakes Aikido*
- Ithaca Karate Harmony with Nature School
- Michael Costello, Cayuga Internal Martial Arts*

LECTURES AND OTHER ACADEMIC EVENTS**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 27**7:00 - 9:30 PM
RPCC Auditorium**"From Beijing Opera to Film: Martial Choreography and the Power of
Fantasy and Humor"**Film screening and discussion of *Painted Faces* – with TJ Hinrichs,
Department of History, Cornell University**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 28**11:00 - 12:00 PM
RPCC Room 203**"Taiji practice for Low Back Pain and Arthritis"**Michael Costello, Cayuga Medical Center Physical Therapy and Cayuga
Internal Martial Arts12:00 - 12:30 PM
RPCC Room 203**Qigong and Taiji (Tai Chi) Demonstrations and Discussion of Health Benefits**

Taoist Tai Chi Society

*cosponsored by the History Department

**ALL EVENTS ARE FREE AND
OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**If you need accommodations, please
email sk378@cornell.edu by October 18For the most up-to-date information
concerning this event, please visit:<http://eap.einaudi.cornell.edu/>

Proud to be a Let's Move! event

