
The Montessorian

October 26, 2012

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

Calendar

- Oct. 29 Snack Week for Andor Nadasdy, Khai Matsudaira and Zoli Nadasdy
- Oct. 31 Halloween Carnival
- Nov. 1 Middle School Field Trip to Scranton, PA Steamtown National
Historic Site, Anthracite Museum and Lackawanna Coal Mine
7:45 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Nov. 7 Middle School Portfolio Night 7:00 – 8:30 p.m.
- Nov. 8-9 **NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Nov. 12 **NO SCHOOL – Veterans’ Day**
- Nov. 13 3rd year Upper Level trip to the Johnson Museum 10:00 – 12:00 p.m.
- Nov. 15 Coffee Shop (details to follow)
- Nov. 20 Thanksgiving Feast (details to follow)
- Nov. 21 – 23 **NO SCHOOL – Thanksgiving Break**
- Nov. 28 Middle School field trip to Auburn
Tubman House and Seward Mansion 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.
- Dec. 6 EAC Winter Concert, Hanger Theatre 7:00 p.m. (details to follow)

News from Melani and Becky

As sunset's wind blows, lost leaves expose bare branches.

Crunching layers await snowfall on crimson hillsides.

Hillsides reflect golden rays as orange orb bows a goodnight.

Children at work painting sunrise, dawn, day, sunset, twilight, and night can be seen during most work times. The next step, to brainstorm expressive words while looking at a completed painting, often becomes a community effort. The generated language then becomes prose, poetic verse or describing sentences about 'Times of the Day.' We quietly observe as the oldest children bind and present their completed Times of Day books. This process, the beginning step in our Picturing Writing sequence, is a beautiful example of older children modeling completed work for younger children. The oldest children, the lions, are leaders in the classroom. They model working quietly with concentration, respectful use of the materials, and peaceful movement in the room. Their willingness to hold themselves, each other and younger peers to the expectations of the classroom is a testament to the process of the three year cycle within a Montessori classroom. We are very proud of the examples our elder children set.

All of the children have worked to complete research cards about countries of ancestral origin. Again, older children worked with younger children offering assistance with fact finding and writing. Preparing for our UN Day traditions gave children opportunities to learn research skills, share family traditions and learn more about each other's lives. Thank you to all who helped to make our UN Day a success!

We are looking forward to seeing all of our parents at the November conferences.

Thank you, Melani and Becky

News from Leah & Meridith's Class

As the leaves fall outside, we have been singing and dancing inside, swirling our hands and bodies like the wind blown leaves to welcome Autumn. The last of the milkweed dried up as we freed our newly emerged monarchs at the end of September. We continue to watch the remaining brown chrysalis that will overwinter in our classroom. The children's sense of wonder is contagious! Seasons will come and go as we wonder what will emerge from these small beginnings of winged things. Meanwhile our environment has been buzzing with the activities of Practical Life! This group of busy bees loves to use tools to prepare food for our consumption. A most popular work on our shelves is apple slicing. Children use an apple slicer to cut an apple, prepare each slice with a tooth pic, then serve the apple up to peers for snacking. Of course dishes must then be washed and dried to be readied for the next set of little hands. It is a beautiful process to watch, especially as older children happily share their strength and experience with slicing at the request of younger classmates. In the afternoon our prolific chefs chopped apples for Maya Donenfeld's delicious apple cake recipe. The irresistible aroma of cinnamon, apples and our secret ingredient (we won't tell!) drew many members of our community to our kitchen to have a nibble! People are not the only beings nibbling in our room these days. After researching dietary needs of gerbils, Meridith created a special nut free blend for our furry friends, allowing them to return to the classroom! The children have welcomed them with plenty of love and many cardboard tubes to chew. All through the day children can be seen observing the gerbils with smiles and giggles. They provide entertainment as well as a chance to care for living creatures in our environment, a cherished duty and important piece of the Montessori curriculum. In preparation for UN day we appreciated the people who nurture and care for us and our families. Excitement is built as we share stories of our ancestors and create flags from our nations of origin. Primary classrooms in our building can be heard celebrating our families through song....

I celebrate my family, people close to me.
There are many branches in my family tree!
Loving, caring
helping sharing.
I celebrate my family, people close to me.

Upper Level Latin Notes from Suzanne

I am so happy to report that Latin classes in Upper Level have begun. The first-year students have been reading (in English) about some famous Roman heroes, some legendary (like Romulus) and some quite real (like Julius Caesar). We have also looked at Roman numerals and the names of the numbers in Latin (ask your children what septem, octo, novem and decem mean, and why September was originally the 7th month, as its name declares). By the time you read this, we will likely have started to learn our first Latin words together, which are words for family members.

The second-year students have homework in Latin. This will help them review their vocabulary and support their work in class. My goal is to create review exercises for them. The latest grammar (such as the “I” and “you” forms of verbs) will remain classwork only until students have had more practice and feel confident in their understanding.

The purpose of homework in Latin is to increase students’ exposure to the language in addition to our two class meetings each week. Latin homework may well be done during a work time at school; but if you see Latin work coming home with your child, note that the exercise sheet itself tells the student where to look for a list of the vocabulary items being used. The Cambridge Latin book has a complete glossary in the back to check word meaning, but it may be easiest for them to find out what for example, **surgit** means, if they look on page 7 where they were introduced to the word. Your child will need both the textbook and the homework sheet to be successful. I welcome comments and feedback from parents.

The third-year students, who are old hands with Latin homework by now, have started a new book, which they will continue using in our middle-school Latin program with Allie: this is the high school textbook called *Ecce Romani*. We are likely to study about a third of the book this year. It feels like “starting over” in Latin, to begin using it, because it’s written for beginners, and our students have been doing Latin for two years now. But it’s a kind of starting over at a much more advanced level. We are studying grammar (English and Latin) in an in-depth way, and beginning to pay attention to the set of endings used by nouns, adjectives and verbs in a systematic way (conjugations and declensions, to use the technical terminology). We are even starting to translate from English into Latin, which requires the students to “think” in Latin terms. It’s exciting to watch this group make the transition to the higher level. I know they are capable of learning a tremendous amount this year.

Music News from Linda

Extended Day and Junior Level

Greetings! Children in the music class continue to be busy and have fun. They sing songs relating to fall and one of their favorites is "The Month of October". The children had a great time showing what a melodic direction is (upward and downward) through hand movements while singing the song in class. We used soprano xylophone (SX) and alto metallophone (AM) as accompaniments for the song. They played "do, ti, la, sol, fa, mi, re, do" on the SX and AM on the words, "down, down, yellow, red and brown, leaves are falling to the ground" which demonstrated downward melody. The children also created great motions to "Down in the Valley". Many of them moved to the musical rhythm with joy. Some children shared new movement ideas while singing the solo.

In addition, the children enjoyed reading the story, "This Old Lady Who Wasn't Afraid of Anything". This book offered us a great opportunity to integrate storytelling with body movements and playing instruments. The children also had a magnificent time singing "Let Us Chase the Squirrels" and "Chicken on the Fence Post". In these two songs, we worked on beat/rhythm (quarter note: ta; two eighth notes: ti-ti; sixteenth notes: ti-ka ti-ka). They greatly enjoyed playing with the rhythm cards and were able to figure out the rhythm to these songs.

Upper Level

Children in Upper Level continue to sing in chorus and study music in their weekly classes. We enjoyed singing a song, which originated from Eastern Caribbean called "Missy-La, Massa La". Inspired by the First Year students cultural curriculum Early Man and Native American, we discussed what were the first instruments to ever be used by humans, where they were found, and what they were made from. In the next few weeks, children will get to explore more about Native American music and dances. We also look forward to make musical instruments, such as dance sticks and arm bands to accompany our singing and dancing. The Second Year students began the year by learning the history of great music composers including Bach, Mozart, and Beethoven, as well as studying beat/rhythm, melodic contour, and musical form (AB, ABA, and Rondo). They also had a great time practicing speech pieces (poems, rhymes and songs) using body percussion, creative movements, and ostinati. Complementing their study of the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the Third Year students learned about the Medieval music notation, monophony/polyphony, and Gregorian Chant. The children will be creating a simple orchestration with pitched and/or non-pitched instruments and will choreograph a folk dance to teach to the class.

Classroom Observations have begun!

Observations are by appointment only. They are scheduled for Thursday mornings 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.

Save The Date

This year's Winter Concert will feature ALL of our bands and choruses in one program. It will be on Thursday, December 6th at 7pm at the Hangar Theater. All Junior Level Lions, Upper Level, and Middle School students will be performing. Details to follow.

Ryan's Concert Choice of the Week:

Wednesday, October 31 8:00pm	Sage Chapel	"Halloween Organ Extravaganza" features F. W. Murnau's Faust (1926): silent movie with live accompaniment by guest organist Dennis James with Mark Goldstein, as Filmharmonia Duo.
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HALLOWEEN

CARNIVAL

on Wednesday October 31 the
upper level will host the annual

HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL!

for the Junior level
and Primary/Extended Day.

There will be a haunted house,
bake sale, fun games and hair
dye. There is an encouraged
donation of \$3.00. GET

READY FOR SOME

HALLOWEEN FUN!!!

I _____, AGREE TO ALLOW MY CHILD,
_____, TO HAVE HIS/HER HAIR DYED AT
THE CARNIVAL.

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

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

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 Arts

12:00 - 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

