
The Montessorian

September 28, 2012

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

Calendar

- Oct. 1 Snack week for Ian Golden-Appleton, Alex Kidangathazhe and Sacha Lasser
- Oct. 1 – 5 School Photographs Week
- Oct. 3 Mel & Becky's Class Field Trip to
Cornell Plantations 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 5 First Annual Andrea Riddle Day
- Oct. 7 Andrea Riddle Memorial, 1 p.m., Statler Auditorium, Cornell University
- Oct. 8 **NO SCHOOL – Columbus Day**
- Oct. 10 Scott & Deb's Class Field Trip to
Cornell Plantations 10:00 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12 Ski Club Sign-Up Deadline
- 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 (more details to follow)
- Nov. 8-9 **NO SCHOOL – Parent/Teacher Conferences**
- Nov. 12 **NO SCHOOL – Veterans' Day**

Welcome Picnic

At the beginning of every school year we invite our children to bring their families and other loved ones to school for our Welcome Picnic. Our purpose is to build relationships. We do this because although we are called a school, we are engaged in more than the education of children; our goal is something great. Our goal is the creation of a mindful and just society. In other words, although we do teach a great deal we also place emphasis on the connections between beings because we believe that the building blocks of a just and mindful society are the fruit of relationships built on dignity and respect. This is our Great Work. It starts with each child as an individual immersed in a carefully prepared environment, and then continues as the child moves from a state of dependence to one of independence, from a world of “my rug/my work” to a world that is cooperative, collaborative and dynamic. We start with each child as an individual and work towards the child as a citizen. At the EAC Montessori School we do educate children, but even more importantly, we build community.

At our 2012 Welcome Picnic, we celebrated the opening of our new Junior Level classroom with a ribbon cutting by Ron Riddle, husband of our late founder Andrea Riddle. President of the Board, Peter Browning also made the following statement:

“Twenty-four years ago, our school was renting space from the ICSD at the Cayuga Heights Elementary School. When the district took the space back, we needed to find a new home. The EAC Montessori School community came together, bought this land, designed and built the main building all in time to move in with out 88 students.

Since that time we have added classrooms for Primary and Junior Levels and buildings for Upper Level and Middle School. The Administration, Faculty and Board of Trustees has worked 6 years in a plan to unify our campus and provide a dedicated Music room, a Junior Level/Extended Day Art room and an Assemble Space to accommodate our entire community. Working from this master plan, we are here to celebrate the first step, our new Junior Level classroom and Mini-Gym.”

Despite the turbulent weather, we hosted a large crowd and a good time was had by all!

Laura

SCHOOL BUS CHANGES

Dear Families,

Please note the following school bus changes taking place next week.

Thursday, October 4:

- There will be **no Trumansburg** buses. You will need to arrange transportation for your child/children to and from school that day.
- There will be **no afternoon bus** for the **Dryden School District**. You will need to arrange transportation for your child/children from school that day.
- **Ithaca City School District** buses will conduct mandatory emergency drills. Your children will be dismissed 15 minutes early and **may arrive home earlier than usual**.

Friday, October 5:

There will be **no busing** for students in the following districts:

- **Dryden**
- **Ithaca**
- **Lansing**
- **Trumansburg**

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

Dear Montessori Families,

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

Team EAC first joined the event last year in honor of our founder Andrea Riddle. Julian Bushlow and his mom Lisa organized our group last year. We'd like to make this an annual tradition to honor Andrea and show our support for everyone in our community who has fought or is fighting cancer.

You can join Team EAC online at:

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

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

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

News from Dawn and Katri's Classroom

One month ago, Katri and I wondered if it would be possible to set up our new and beautiful classroom in time for the children to come. Excitedly, we moved in furniture, unpacked materials, and filled our shelves. Carefully, we selected just the right containers and displayed works in appealing ways. We moved into our kitchen, set up our classroom systems, and giggled with delight as the empty room transformed into our classroom. We joked about buying keys that had "HOME" printed on them. But still something was missing. Finally the day came to welcome our community to our space. With overwhelming excitement, parents and children came to see what the new space was about. The long awaited classroom began to feel real as the children of our class arrived and looked around to see what they would find.

Over the last three weeks, we have watched our prepared environment come alive. Children, who came in as individuals, have now bonded into our supportive and familiar micro community. This bond was begun by creating our classroom bundle of sticks. The creation of this bundle followed a story telling how one stick can be broken easily but a bundle of many together is incredibly strong. Next, our group discussed what we needed to do to be a respectful community. Each member of our class participated in the writing of our classroom charter, and later each member signed it, agreeing to do his or her best to be their best, while learning from mistakes along the way. We have watched new friendships blossom as new students have been welcomed into our school and children reach out in support of one another. Lessons are being given and routines are becoming... well... routine. Works fill our floors and tables of the main floor and our loft. Experiments are now being repeated in the kitchen, while tea and conversation cards are being shared. Spelling, Language and Math lessons are being given to small groups and individuals. Children are learning to use their planners and work folders to keep track of their assignments and paperwork. Music, Spanish and PE lessons have begun. (Art lessons begin next week following our fabulous field trip to the Johnson Art Museum with Jeff, where we learned about art being functional as well as decorative.) Daily responsibilities are being completed during or at the close of each day. Let's just say it is not boring around here!

We are enjoying getting to know the students of our room as much as we are enjoying getting to know our students' parents. Thank you all for participating in our parent night. It was fun to hear anecdotes about your children and begin our journey together as partners in educating them. Thank you to those who were able to join us in the T-burg Corn Maze. The metaphor of jointly following/guiding the children through the twists and turns of the maze cannot be ignored. We look forward to partnering more with you as we travel further into the school year.

As we have mentioned before, please feel free to contact us whenever the need arises. Starting in mid-October, we encourage each of you to schedule observations so you can visit our space and watch your children in action. Amazing things are going on here!

Dawn and Katri

Art News from Marjorie

Upper Level

Although our weekly art classes will not begin until October, I have been in the upper level building quite frequently since the beginning of school. We are working on a community art project based on "expressive typography." This is the art of designing letterforms and arranging letters so that the style and shape of a word expresses the word's meaning (as in the word boldly shown here). The students, working in ten groups, are using expressive typography to depict important words for their community life – words such as *balance*, *connection*, *humor*, *purposefulness* and *brotherly love*. These words will be painted onto

the windows in the building.

Another project involving the second year students, took place on September 19th. We set up a sawdust firing of pottery that was built last spring. The firing took place in the backyard of the Upper Level building. The kiln was built of bricks; the fuel was sawdust.



Middle School



Over the summer, several Middle School students and their parents joined me, Gary Weiss and Tony Serviente in installing the new stained glass window on the school tower. It is the second window to be installed and is made of ten panels that were constructed by the middle school students in 2011-2012. There are two more windows to be built. The project should be completed in four years.

On September 14th, the Middle School Students and teachers went on a field trip to the Mundy Flower Garden. In addition to having a tour and working on a maintenance project for the garden, the students completed botanical illustrations.



EACMSI SKI CLUB

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

**Earlybird deadline has passed but
you can still join!!!**

If you are planning to join the EAC Ski Club...

- Please register **online** (<https://register.communitypass.net/greekpeak>)
- Please make sure you register as part of the
EAC Montessori School Ski Club
- Please send a check for \$120.00 payable to EACMSI for the bus (non-refundable, you must be 9 years old or older to ride the bus).
- Anyone can join – see Lisa for questions and details.
- **NO FOOD BOOKS, PLEASE.**

**THE BUS FILLS QUICKLY. SEND
A CHECK IN RIGHT AWAY TO RESERVE YOUR
SEAT!!!**

**The Elizabeth Ann Clune Montessori School of Ithaca
277-7335**

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

SAY CHEESE!

For those parents new to the Montessori community, I would like to introduce myself. I am **Carol Chaplin**, a parent of a graduate of EACMSI who is now a senior at Lansing HS. I have been a portrait photographer for over 15 years and have been photographing children at various Montessori schools in the area including EACMSI (since 1999). I look forward to the privilege of photographing your children and will do my best to ensure that they have an enjoyable experience. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact me (see contact info below).

Both Individual & Class Pictures will be taken **Oct. 1 - 5**

Monday, 10/1

Morning

In order:

Afternoon

CLASS PHOTOS for ALL LEVELS – outdoors, weather permitting

Middle School, Prim/Ext. Day, Junior Level, Upper Level

Middle School Individual Photos

Tuesday, 10/2

- Half Day & Full Day Primary Individual Photos

Wednesday, 10/3

-Upper Level Individual Photos

Thursday, 10/4

-Junior Level Individual Photos

Friday, 10/5

-Extended Day Individual Photos

If you have a color preference for the background of your child's individual photo, I must receive this form before the day of his/her scheduled individual photograph. If you do not indicate a color choice, your child's individual photo will be taken against a WHITE background. Please do not rely on your child to notify the photographer of your color choice. If you would like your child to decide, please indicate so on the form below.

Photos will be available for viewing online within 2 weeks. If you prefer that your child's proofs not be posted online, please contact me at 272-4629 or ccss84@twcny.rr.com to make other arrangements.

Thank you,

Carol Chaplin

Please Circle:

I prefer a BLUE or WHITE background for _____
Name & Class/Teacher