

MONTESSORI OF PLAINFIELD

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December 2011

Key Dates in December

- **December 1st:** Tuition Due
- **December 5th:** Visit from the Plainfield Library
- **December 16th:** Holiday Show 6:30pm
- **December 21st:** Winter Celebrations
- **December 22nd:** Winter Break Begins —NO SCHOOL
- **January 9th:** School resumes



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Tidbits From The Teachers

Teaching Children Gratitude, Not Greed, During the Holidays

By ROMI LASSALLY

1. **Give less, and expect and accept the disappointment.** Your children will get over it quickly if they see that you're serious. (Read: Don't start waffling and look like you might cave and hit the mall because of their whining. Stand firm. It's best for everyone.)

2. **Model gratitude as well as the pleasure you get in giving something to someone else.** This happens not only at the holidays but all year long. Proclaim it for the world to see.

3. **Model giving to others. Make it a regular part of your holiday.** Help your kids to make lists of whom they will give to. Involve your kids in all the steps -- the choice of recipient, the gift, the wrapping, the delivery. The more they do, the more exciting it will be. (I also recommend finding a way to let your kids see their gift being opened. It's much easier for them to understand the adage "to give is to receive" if they see the excitement on the face of the recipient.)

4. **Do family projects that involve doing things for others, and for which you can see the results.** Do surprise things for others (bring in your neighbor's trash, rake her leaves, put flowers on the dining room table, etc.).

5. **Have family experiences that will**

characterize the holiday. It's about what you do together. Do crazy, fun different stuff together, things you do only at the holidays. (Wear your pj's in the car as you comb the city for holiday decorations and lights, for example.)

6. **Give the gift of coupons for things that kids get to do.** An extra story at bedtime, movie watching in mom's bed. And encourage your children to give you coupons for things they will do for you, such as a day without fighting, taking a bath without nagging -- anything that will make you happy.

Romi Lassally is the founder of true-momconfessions.com and author of "True Mom Confessions: Real Moms Get Real." Follow Romi on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/tmcromi>.

Montessori Classrooms Celebrate Holidays Around the World

Montessorians know that in order to promote peace and understanding of different people and cultures, it is necessary to study not only the geography and history of those people, but also to look at the human story. Looking at the ways we celebrate gives us some insight into our similarities and differences. The winter season brings many festivals and celebrations around the world. Through study and experience, children gain a better understanding of those around them. We hope to expose your child a few of the different ways other countries celebrate the holiday.

We hope all of you have a PEACEFUL holiday!

Miss Heather's Kindergarten News

The holidays are approaching and in addition to our daily work in the afternoon we will spend some time exploring holiday traditions from around the world. This is a wonderful way to give our Montessori kids a global view and the chance to learn about other cultures. We will learn about holiday observances in Sweden, Spain, Italy, India, and Germany. We will also plot some cities in the USA that have some very unique holiday names! Happy December everyone!!



Extended Day Updates

Science Discoveries



This month in extended day we have been discussing that animals are all categorized by animal families. The children created a book of the different animal families with brief descriptions of their traits that would put them in these families. They also choose two animal picture examples to glue into their pages.

In addition we are now working on Animals in the Winter months. New vocabulary being introduced are; hibernation, migration, active animals etc. We will also discuss different ways animals prepare for the winter months as well as comparing and contrasting how we as humans prepare for the winter months.



Art Appreciation



Andy Warhol is most famous for **Pop Art**. His art is fun, colorful and modern. Most of all this type of art is very appealing to children. The children have been working with bright colors and repetitive photos to create their own work to resemble that of Warhol's .



Phonics Fun



I is for ice cream cones that we made to help us remember the sound that it makes.



J is for a yummy jar of jelly-beans that looked good enough to eat.



K is for the kicking kangaroos that were as cute as can be.



L is for the lovable lion masks we made.

We continue to work through our letter sounds with fun projects, poems and activities. We are also becoming much more proficient with our cutting, coloring and gluing skills!

A Special Thank You...

We want to give a very big, "THANK YOU," to all of the parents that helped out with our Thanksgiving Feasts. Either by being there or by sending in all of our yummy foods, we truly appreciate all of your help. Our day would not have been so special without you!

A special thank you to the Jonihakis family for donating ALL of the turkey for all three classes' feasts. It was delicious!!!!

Reminders from the Office

- **Candle Fundraiser** orders were due on Monday, November 28th. Thanks to everybody who participated in this wonderful fundraising effort. The candles ready to go home with our students before our winter break - just in time for the holidays!
- **Scholastic books** have been ordered and our final order of the year should arrive any day now, in plenty of time for the holidays. Thanks to everybody who supports this program. The teachers are able to add to their classroom library because of the many bonus points earned each month!
- **January Tuition** is due by January 1st, 2012. Because we do not return from winter break until January 9th, we are asking all families who pay tuition under the 10 payment plan to please mail your tuition payment in over the holiday break. A tuition sheet and a pre-addressed envelope will be sent home prior to dismissal for the holidays. As always tuition payments are due on or before the 1st of the month. A \$20 late fee will be applied if payment is not received within two days of the due date. If your tuition is received after this time, please expect to receive a late fee notice. Thanks for your cooperation!
- **Calling the school when your child will be out sick:** When you are calling your child in, please include a brief description of your child's symptoms. It's especially important for our staff to be aware of any illnesses that are contagious.
- **Severe Weather Closings** can occur any time over the next few months. To find out if our school is closed please call the Emergency Closing Center at 847/238-1234 and enter our school phone number (815/254-0136). You may also visit their website www.emergencyclosings.com, or tune into local radio and TV stations for up-to-date information. Additionally, a message is always left on the school voice mail system in the event of closing due to inclement weather conditions.
- **Winter Break** begins on Thursday, December 22nd (no school on this date). School re-opens Monday, January 9 2012. Our staff and students would like to wish everybody a safe and happy holiday season!



HOLIDAY SHOW (ALL CLASSES)

WHEN: Friday, December 16th
Doors open at 6:15pm. Show will begin promptly at 6:30pm.

WHERE: The Plainfield Police Department
14300 S. Coil Plus Drive Plainfield, IL 60544

Details will be coming home soon!

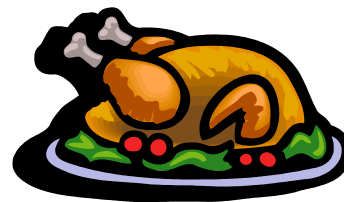


Sandbox Talk...

Miss Mari-Ann asked her students,
“How long should you cook a turkey and what goes in it?”

- ★ Alex G.—10 minutes/liver sauce
- ★ Alex P.—18 minutes/nothing
- ★ Cecelia—3 minutes/BBQ sauce
- ★ Emiliano—?/pizza
- ★ Hannah—5 minutes/stuffing made of salt
- ★ Katie—I don't know
- ★ Leah—hours/pizza

- ★ Lyvia—4 hours/rice, peppers, tomatoes & stuffing
- ★ Natalia—30 hours/grapes & oranges
- ★ Nieve—4 minutes/spaghetti
- ★ Safiya—8 minutes/cucumbers & carrots
- ★ Samantha—7 minutes/raspberries
- ★ Stephen—20 minutes/nothing



Cold Blooded Creatures In-House Field Trip



When: Wednesday, January 18, 2012 (*presentation will take place during regular class time*)
Cost: \$10 per student (Payable to Montessori of Plainfield)

We are so excited to have this one of a kind, hands on experience coming to our school this year! **We will get to see alligators, snakes, lizards and a tortoise!** We will learn about the important roles these animals play on our planet and how important it is to protect them.

Permission forms will be sent home as soon as we return from winter break and will be due back right away!

Interested in Sponsoring our Newsletter?

This is a great way to advertise your business. Our newsletter is read by over 45 families each month. Please contact Chris Ulreich at 815/272-3783 for more information.

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