

# MONTESSORI OF FRANKFORT

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## Key Dates in November

- November 1st - Tuition Due
- November 3rd—NO SCHOOL—Teacher's Institute Day
- November 4th - NO SCHOOL—Teacher's prepare for conferences
- November 11th—NO SCHOOL—Veteran's Day
- November 14th - Native American In-House Field forms due
- November 16th—Pottery Project forms and money due
- November 18th - Scholastic Book Orders Due
- November 21st - Thanksgiving Celebration & In-House Field Trip
- November 22nd—25th - Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL
- November 28th - Candle Fundraiser due
- November 30th—Making Holiday Gifts

## Inside this issue:

Teachers Tidbits	1
Pilcher Park In-House Field Trip	2
Extended Day Updates	2
Office Notes	3
Thanksgiving Celebration	3
Scholastic	4
Thank You	4



# Tidbits From The Teachers

## Handwriting

Handwriting is a task the Montessori child begins to master long before he ever holds a pencil. To help families understand the depth and scope of some of the materials in our classrooms this month we are offering a glimpse into the process your children are undertaking while they are working on this skill in school.

- Development of the hand through practical life: The coordination of movement developed through the practical life activities provides a strong foundation for writing. The activities develop the stamina of the hand, the flexibility of the wrist and the development of the pincer grip for holding a writing implement.

- Development of the hand through sensorial: The child's manipulation of the sensorial materials provides a wonderful indirect preparation for writing – developing lightness of touch through the touch boards and tactile material, the ability of the fingers to follow an outline in feeling the shapes in the geometric cabinet, and the strength of the pincer grip in all of the activities that have knobs.

- Sandpaper letters and numbers: The Sandpaper Letters and Numbers helps the hand to absorb the

motion involved in writing a letter or a number. The exploration of letter families help the child discover which letters begin their formation in the same way, and this provides the key for writing fluency.

- Metal inset for control and design: These geometric shapes that the children trace and fill in with careful upward and downward strokes develop the ability of the hand to hold a writing implement, to move fluidly from the beginning to end of a word, to move in different directions and to stop when called for.

- Using different tools: The Montessori principle of isolation of difficulty slowly increases the challenge for a child by progressing from writing on a chalkboard, then tackling a pencil, and writing on blank paper and then lined paper.



Once our students reach this point in the curriculum it is our hope they will be confident writers, and usually they are! This doesn't mean they do not need to practice! Handwriting is a skill, and the mechanics of writing on lined paper, appropriate spaces between words and forming letters correctly takes time and lots of practice.



## NATIVE AMERICAN WORK AND PLAY IN-HOUSE FIELD TRIP

Presented by  
**PILCHER PARK NATURE CENTER**



On Monday, November 21st, we will have a guest speak from Pilcher Park Nature Center visit our school. With the help of this speaker the children can imagine life as it was 200-300 years ago for Native Americans. We will view the world as the Native people did right here in Illinois! Students will identify furs and other objects common to the area long ago. Through our sense of touch we will feel the soft furs and imagine how they might have been used. We may even participate in Native American games and activities. This will be a great addition to our studies on the traditions of Thanksgiving.

Permission slips will be coming home soon. **Please make sure to return your child's form and money by Monday, November 14th.**

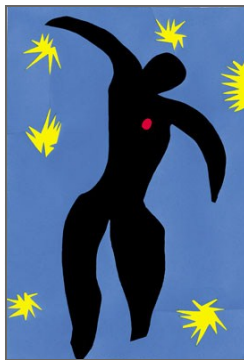
## Extended Day Updates

### Science & Geography Club



The children will especially enjoy the activities that are planned this month! We will start off by learning about nutrition. Each child will be making their own food pyramid to help them understand why certain foods are important for them to stay healthy and strong. The next topic we will be covering will be The Story of the First Thanksgiving! They will learn about the Mayflower Voyage and how the Indians helped the Pilgrims. Happy Thanksgiving to you and your family!

### Art Club



This month, the Extended Day Art Class will study Henri Matisse. He was a master of line, form, color and space. Henri Matisse was the leader of a group of young artists doing some bold experiments with color using both paint and paper cut-outs. We will use both methods. As we approach this Thanksgiving holiday, our art projects and decorations will make your celebrations special!

### Phonics Fun

This month we will continue to work our way through the alphabet. The younger children will be making projects that go along with the letter sound we are studying that week. These activities are a good way for the students to not only focus on a certain sound but also strengthen their fine motor skills during the handwriting part of the work. The readers will be learning blending, as well as reviewing the sounds through different group activities.



Before Thanksgiving break, we will have some fun by playing sounds bingo and other phonics games.

## Reminders from the Office

✍ **Small Hands Catalog:** Our group order has been placed and should arrive any day now. We want to thank everyone who made purchases this year. Your contributions helped us earn reward dollars to purchase new classroom materials for our school.

✍ **Scholastic books** are due back to school by Friday, November 18th. **This will be the last order we place before the winter holidays**, so please shop wisely. Your continued support helps us earn bonus points to purchase new books for our classrooms each year. Order forms will be sent home next week.

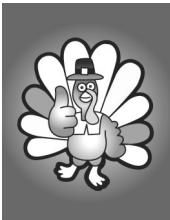
✍ **Pottery Project information** will be coming home soon. Once again the children will have the opportunity to make you a beautiful holiday gift. Please keep your eye out for the order form soon!

✍ **October Parent Night** was a great success! *Thank you to all of our families who came out!*

✍ **Pilcher Park In-House Field Trip permission slips and money** are due back to school by Monday, November 14th.



✍ **Grand Canyon Candle fundraiser** order forms will be coming home before the Thanksgiving recess. This is a great opportunity to purchase some very nice candles for holiday gift giving. This fundraiser earns money for the school to spend for much needed supplies and materials. The forms and money are due back on Monday, November 28th—NO EXCEPTIONS. We need to place the order immediately to have the candles back in time to deliver them before our winter break. As always, we truly appreciate your support!



## OUR THANKSGIVING FEAST

On **Monday November 21st**, the children will be celebrating Thanksgiving with their teachers and friends in the classroom. This celebration will include a story about how the holiday began and a feast they will share together as a group. We will have great discussions about spirit of Thanksgiving and focus on what we are all thankful for! The children will be learning a few holiday songs to sing at our special celebration. They will be dressing as Pilgrims and Indians and we will make their attire at school. Everybody will be asked to bring something to share to make the feast complete. Teachers will be sending home a note asking each family for a particular food item.



Please watch for this note soon!

# WE ARE GETTING READY TO PLACE OUR LAST SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDER BEFORE THE HOLIDAYS.

SCHOLASTIC BOOK ORDERS ARE DUE BY FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2011.

For every order placed online our school receives a free book.

There are many more flyers/books to choose from when you shop online!

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO ORDER ONLINE JUST FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE DIRECTIONS!

**SIGN UP** at [www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs](http://www.Scholastic.com/bookclubs). On the parent page, click the "Don't have a User Name and Password?" (or new user) link, then register for your own username and password. When prompted, enter the one-time **Class Activation Code: GVFMB**. This code ensures that your order is sent to us. When your account is activated, it will say that Linda Wiksten is your child's teacher – this is correct.



*If you have already signed-up, all you need to do is log-in and shop!*

For paper orders please make checks payable to:  
Scholastic Book Clubs (not our school). No cash please.



## THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU!

The teachers and children would like to extend a huge thanks to all those who donated items to our school during the month of October. Your generosity contributes to the success of our school. Thanks so much!

- ◆ BODIE: Yarn & large craft sticks
- ◆ RIEDER: Paper
- ◆ SLAGER: Paper
- ◆ SMULDERS: Wipes, flushable wipes, Kleenex, Zip-Lock baggies and glue

**Also – Thank you to all of the families that helped with our Halloween party! Either by being here or donating items, our party would not have been so wonderful without all of your help and support!**



*Interested in Sponsoring our Newsletter?*

*This is a great way to advertise your business.*

*Please contact Chris Ulreich at*