

MONTESSORI OF PLAINFIELD

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Volume 1, Issue 3

November 2011

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 7th - Plainfield Library Visit
- November 11th—NO SCHOOL—Veteran's Day
- November 16th—Pottery Project forms and money due
- November 19th - Scholastic Book Orders Due
- November 21st - Thanksgiving Celebration
- November 22nd—25th - Thanksgiving Recess - NO SCHOOL
- November 28th - Candle Fundraiser due
- November 30th—Making Holiday Gifts

Inside this issue:

Teachers Tidbits	1
Miss Heather's Kindergarten Notes	2
Extended Day Updates	2
Office Notes	3
Thanksgiving Celebration	3
Sandbox Talk	4
Newsletter Sponsors	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.

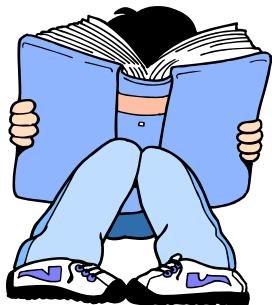
- Using different tools: The Montessori principle of isolation of difficulty slowly increases the challenge for a child by progressing from writing on a chalkboard, then tackling a pencil, and writing on blank paper and then lined paper.



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.

Miss Heather's Kindergarten News



The children are settling into the chilly weather routine in the afternoon! Now that we are not outdoors as much we have some extra time before lunch and have begun our independent reading time. Each day the children find their name printed on the board and next to it the is a numeral written in a different color. The colors and numerals correspond to different series readers in the class. The kids find the book they are working on and choose a spot for reading. They know that their number may not change each day as they work to master the book they are working on, and it is so amazing to watch them seek out other children to help them if they are stuck on a word. Even in a group of same-age peers the Montessori principle of looking to other children in class for support is in full swing. It is my hope that by incorporating other reading material the students will build on their existing skills, become interested in other materials in addition to their class SRA book and most importantly, develop a love of reading for pleasure.

Extended Day Updates

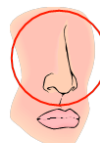
Science Discoveries

Fall is such a great time of year for exploring all the changes that the season brings.

We began our month by making all the different parts of a tree. After discussing the job each of the parts has, we then assembled our trees and labeled them accordingly. The following week we moved onto investigating leaves. We learned why the leaves turn colors in the fall and what is required during the spring and summer for the leaves to make food and keep their green color. The children created parts of the leaf books and tried their hands at leaf rubbing (not as easy as it looks).



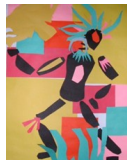
The best part of fall and winter is all the wonderful smells that go hand and hand with the new seasons. We tested our sense of smells using different scents of the season as well as some others. Trying to guess what we were smelling proved to be a lot of fun and really silly too!



The Nose

Art Appreciation

Henri Matisse has been our focus of art study the past few weeks. The children have enjoyed expressing their creativity with collage type art pieces. Using colorful cutouts and simple forms was classic Matisse. My young artists learned how to take a human form and make it appear to be in motion. The "dancer" series by Matisse exhibits this same concept.



Matisse

"The snail"

There is no right or wrong way to create a collage which makes it so much fun for children. Everyone enjoyed practicing their cutting skills to create interesting shapes for their collage and seemed very satisfied with their art pieces.

Phonics Fun



E is for the cutest elephants you've ever seen! We are continuing our journey through the alphabet and having so much fun along the way. Our letter sounds books are growing thicker as we color and cut out pictures that coordinate with our letter sound of the week.

F is for the funny feet prints we brought home along with a silly poem about our feet. Dr Seuss "The Foot Book" was a perfect read to go along with our footprint projects.

G is for the great  we made!

H is for a hilarious Hippo head that we put together with a funny hippo poem.



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 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.

✂ **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 Nights** were a great success! *Thank you to all of our families who came out!*

✂ **Operation Care Package Donations** will be accepted through Monday, November 14th. They will be picked up from us on the 15th. A list of items they are looking for was sent home last week. If your family would like to send a note or card to be included with a care package, that would be great too!

✂ **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.

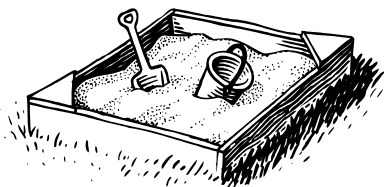


Please watch for this note soon!

TEDDY BEAR PORTRAITS

Unfortunately our portrait experience this year did not go as smoothly as it should have. This is a company that we have used in the past without any major incidences. We have been communicating with the corporate office, so they are aware of any issues that we know of. If you have any specific problems or complaints, please feel free to contact them directly. Again, we are sorry for any inconvenience or dissatisfaction that any of you experienced.

Teddy Bear Portraits 1-800-338-3339 or www.teddybearportraits.com/parents/



Sandbox Talk. . .

Miss Kelly asked her students,
“What are you thankful for?”

- ★ Aidan M.— Lego bricks
- ★ Brendan—My Legos
- ★ Carly—Everything
- ★ Dimitri—My family
- ★ Emerson—My elves
- ★ Giovanni—Fireworks
- ★ Isabel—Christmas
- ★ Juliet—My dog



- ★ Lucas—Rain for our plants
- ★ Nathan—My mom
- ★ Quin—My train
 - ★ Reese—My baby
 - ★ Tyler—My dog
 - ★ Zac—My plants



We are thankful for all of our wonderful students and families that make our Montessori family so special!



Interested in Sponsoring our Newsletter?
This is a great way to advertise your business.
Our newsletter is read by over 60 families each month.
Please contact Chris Ulreich at 815/272-3783 for more information.

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